

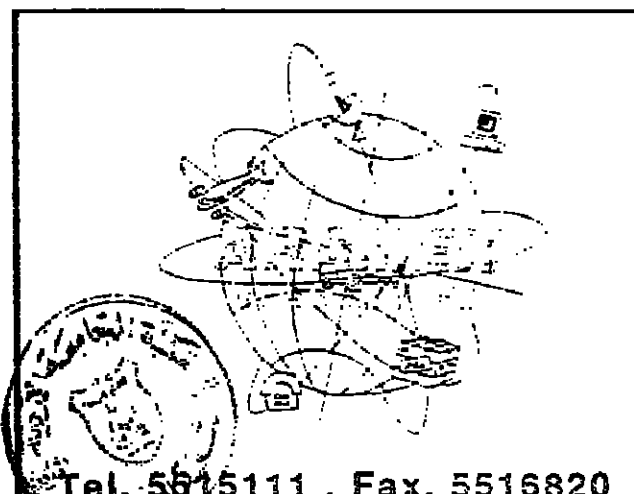
# The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

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## Israeli peace movement struggling in state of confusion

By Rebecca Trounson  
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Naama Rokem was still a preschooler when her leftist Israeli parents began taking her along to demonstrate against Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

At 14, the dark-haired young girl started protesting on her own. Standing each Friday on a Jerusalem street corner, holding signs that urged a succession of Israeli governments to make peace with the Palestinians.

These days, as Israelis and Palestinians confront one another with rocks and rubber bullets and the Middle East peace process teeters perilously close to collapse, Rokem, now 20 and still leftist, stays home.

"It seems futile to demonstrate," says the young woman, a second-year student at Jerusalem's Hebrew University. "It's not clear to me now that the (peace) agreements Israel signed were good. It's very confusing."

Less than a year after Israeli elected Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to forge a new, more secure brand of peace with the Palestinians, political contacts between the two sides are all but severed. Violent clashes between Palestinians and Israelis have resumed, along with Palestinian suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

But the Israeli peace movement, far from being inspired to dramatic action, has responded with relative silence to the crisis that many here see as the gravest threat to the progress made since Israel and the Palestinians chose to end their historic enmity four years ago.

"The peace camp is a sad story these days," laments Uri Avnery, an Israeli writer and veteran activist. "It's as if everyone has gone to sleep."

The signs are numerous. Peace Now, the oldest, largest Israeli peace group, which once drew tens of thousands to rallies against Israel's combat in Lebanon—could muster only about 200 people for each of two recent protests at the site of a controversial Israeli housing project in Arab East Jerusalem. The construction has caused the impasse in the talks.

A "Save the Peace" rally in Tel Aviv's Yitzhak Rabin Square, timed to coincide with Netanyahu's visit to Washington in early April, drew a crowd smaller than the 20,000 protesters predicted by organizers.

The mood was flat, almost tired. According to activists and sympathizers on the Israeli left, there are many reasons for the movement's muddled state, ranging from its complacency under the previous Labor-led government to the Netanyahu's zigzag political path since he took office last June. But faced with the new political realities, the peace movement also has failed to articulate a clear response, keeping natural sympathizers like Rokem at bay.

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## Debate over national identity and political rights resurfaces

By Raed Al Abed

Star Staff Writer  
POLITICAL ANALYSTS, from different shades of the political spectrum, seem to agree that until the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the issue of national identity was never one of ethnicity. Until 1967, Jordanians had a coherent perception of themselves.

Jordan was accepted as a melting pot of Arabs, Circassians, Chechens, Armenians, Muslims, Christians, etc.

The political debate of the genre was not about the make-up of the Jordanian citizen, but over the course the country was taking. Before the June 1967 debacle, the political agenda was set by the so-called Jordanian national movement. The platform was occupied by those who were against the policies of the government, and those who supported it. The main issues had a pan Arab dimension; the Baghdad pact, the Anglo-Jordanian treaty and of course the Nasserite dogma and what it entailed for Jordan and Jordanians. Polarization was over issues and not ethnic origin or religion. The issue of Jordanians being for this and Palestinians for that was unheard of.

The advent of hundreds of

thousands of displaced Palestinians to Jordan after the 1967 war added enormous social, economic and political pressure on Jordanian society. After the 1970 armed conflict between the Army and Palestinian armed groups, the unique unity that endured for decades was finally challenged.

Since then the national debate took a different twist. East Bank Jordanians began talking about their unique national identity and about the fact that they were economically and politically disadvantaged. Today they talk openly about the conundrum of dual loyalty among the Jordanians of Palestinian origin. East Bankers speak openly about their fear of solving the Palestinian refugee problem at the expense of Jordan.

In recent weeks, the debate centered on the reasons why Jordanians of Palestinian origin are refraining from active political participation.

Both parts of the equation, Palestinian-Jordanians and East-Jordanians agree that such a phenomenon exists, but differ on its causes.

"The Jordanian people on the Jordanian land are not [an] homogeneous [entity]," said Mr. Abdel Hadi Al Majali, head of

the newly formed center-right National Constitutional Party. "There are several sectors that characterize Jordanian society. The Jordanians [of Jordanian origin], Jordanians of Palestinian origin, the refugees and the displaced."

During a forum held last week, Al Majali, who was a minister in the previous government, said he believes that the reason that Jordanians of Palestinian origin refrain from participating in the Jordanian body politic is the result of "the official double standard policy of the state which gave them political rights and passports, while simultaneously considered them as refugees in Jordan."

However, Dr. Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst, told *The Star* he believes that Jordanians of Palestinian origin "have not taken a decision to disengage from Jordanian politics, but they were forced to disengage by the systematic policies that began after 1970. These policies were disguised and unadmitted." Kamhawi believes that such policies became "open after the administrative and legal disengagement with the West Bank in 1988."

Jordanians of Palestinian origin have acquired their status

● His Majesty King Hussein speaking before top ranking military officers at the Al Hussein Medical City, Wednesday. The King made a comprehensive review of the political situation in Jordan and the region touching on the upcoming elections, the economic situation and government plans to deal with administrative sluggishness, national unity among others.

The King made an emotional plea for all members of society to be responsible in their defence of national unity adding that Jordan will always be the shoulder on which the Palestinians can lean on. He said Jordan will never be an alternative homeland for any party.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali and other senior officials.



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## S. Africa turns to private sector for jails

By Roger Matthews

JOHANNESBURG—The South African government is set to make its biggest breakthrough in relations with the private sector since the African National Congress took power three years ago.

Tender documents will be released shortly asking companies to bid for the financing, construction and operation of seven prisons at an estimated cost of over \$337 million.

If the project is successful it is likely to be the first of many, and could allow the government to withdraw completely from financing further construction. The contracts will put South Africa among the world leaders in privatising prisons, and

could be the first of many infrastructure developments in other sectors, especially transport, to attract foreign bidders. South Africa's prisons were severely overcrowded when the ANC took office and numbers have since been rising by about 10,000 a year.

Escapes are endemic, with an average of over 100 prisoners, from petty thieves to murderers, breaking free each month.

The prison population hit 125,000 at the end of December, is now 134,000, and is expected to reach 147,000 by the end of next year.

Current facilities in 253 jails allow for a maximum of 97,000 prisoners, and the total staff level of

30,000 is 8,000 below requirements. The rising prison population reflects South Africa's world leadership in several categories of crime, particularly murder, rape and armed car hijackings. Public anger at the relatively low levels of arrests and convictions is also mounting and has led to calls for a state of emergency.

Mr. Sipho Mzimela, the correctional services minister, said the prison building programme anticipated greater police success, and viewed the seven new prisons, with their 10,000 population, as "a drop in the ocean." In the longer term he was looking for 50,000 more prison spaces at a cost of up to R12 billion.

"This is a great opportunity for foreign and local companies because their returns are guaranteed by the government," Mr. Mzimela said.

The companies will have to finance, design and operate the new jails, and commit themselves to an agreed programme of health care, hygiene, and rehabilitation. Revenue will come from a fixed daily payment per prisoner.

Mr. Goltz Wessmann, special adviser to the minister, said the daily per capita cost to the government of keeping prisoners was R68. Companies would also have to train staff, and not poach existing prison officers. "We do not intend to end up competing against ourselves," he said. "We also do not expect there to be any escapes, and operating companies will be penalised should any occur."

The performance of companies will be monitored by prison inspectors, headed by a judge, and provision made for the suspension of the contract

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## Islamic schools targeted in Turkish political fight

By Richard Boudreaux

ANKARA—Mukaddes Erzen's parents threw a party to celebrate her enrollment last fall at the super-competitive Tevfik Ileri junior high—but not because the school was a smart career move for an aspiring engineer.

"They rejoiced because I could become a good Muslim and cover my head," said the gangly 12-year-old, her bespectacled face framed by a tight white scarf identical to those of her classmates. "This scarf is part of my religion."

The junior high is one of 610 Islamic academies that have sprouted across Turkey to meet a growing demand for religious education and freedom in the Middle East's most rigidly secular Muslim society—where public-school girls and female civil servants are barred by law from covering up.

In recent weeks, the academies have become targets of the Turkish military, which calls them breeders of Islamic fundamentalism and wants to slash their enrollments. The accusation has fueled a crisis that could bring down modern Turkey's first Islamist-led government, which refuses to curb the schools.

So divisive is the conflict between supporters of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's 10-month-old coalition and secularists backed by the army that children as young as Erzen feel caught up in it.

"They're so scared of us," she said during a break at the school's concrete campus in Ankara, the Turkish capital. "But they will never have the power to shut us down."

Twice this year the five generals on Turkey's National Security Council have pressed for specific steps to roll back Islamic influences not only in

education but in foreign policy, broadcasting and other areas of public life. Rumors of an imminent coup have swept the country for weeks.

Militant secularists, most of them women who fear that scarves or veils will eventually be imposed on them, have marched in Ankara in the first mass protests against Erbakan's government. And in a counter-demonstration in Istanbul on Sunday—Turkey's largest rally in decades—hundreds of thousands of people chanted verses from the Koran to protest the military's moves against the schools.

The struggle is being watched closely throughout the Islamic world, where Turkey has been a model for moderate leaders. Kemal Ataturk, Turkey's ruler after World War I, abolished the Islamic caliphate and declared a secular, democratic and European state.

Turkey's armed forces, self-appointed guardians of that identity, have seized power three times since 1960, but their latest ultimatums have been largely ignored. While he withdrew a bill to lift the 53-year-old restriction on religious head coverings, Erbakan has stood firm on other points and together his coalition with the secular True Path Party of former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

The generals make clear in private that "secularism means more to them than democracy," said a diplomat in Ankara, noting their fear that Turkey could become a theocratic state like neighboring Iran. "They hope they will not have to intervene ... but they cannot allow this standoff to continue."

Erbakan, whose Welfare Party won 21 percent of the vote in the last elections, in December 1995, has backed



Erbakan

away from campaign pledges to quit NATO and break with Israel—those ties are valued by the military commanders. But he is courting Islamic regimes in Iran, Iraq and Libya.

The military's first open challenge came in February after the mayor from Erbakan's party in Sincan, an Ankara suburb, invited the Iranian ambassador to a rally and both men called for a Turkey ruled by Islamic law. The mayor went to jail, the ambassador went home under an expulsion threat, and tanks rolled in the suburb's streets.

Many Turks were stunned by the mayor's outburst of radicalism. In its search for the reason, the military singled out the Islamic academies, which started in the 1950s to train boys from the sixth grade and up to lead prayers in mosques.

In a report this month, the office of the armed forces chief of staff noted that these "inam-hatip" vocational academies, which are administered by the state, have evolved since the 1980s into prep schools as well as places for religious training and that they now admit girls.

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## Government strikes hard to save country's water

By Itham Sadeq

Star Staff Writer  
THE ISSUE of water shortage in Jordan is upon us again as the summer heat starts to sting. This shortage is seen as intractable from the regional water arrangement. The disagreement over water sharing that led to what was described as a mini crisis between Jordan and Israel is seen to be a major part of the problem.

The agreement was facing problems from the start because of Israel's unwillingness to abide to its commitments to provide Jordan with 50 million cubic meters of water, as agreed.

Finally, it appeared last week that Jordanian and Israeli officials solved the water dispute: the agreement will now be implemented in two phases.

Water Minister Dr. Munther Haddadin said that 25 to 30 million cubic meters will be pumped to Jordan from Lake Tiberias via pipelines to the King Abdullah Canal in the first phase. The remainder will be provided to the country after three years (the second phase). It will be pumped after constructing a \$120 million water dam.

This development makes it necessary for the Water Ministry to start regulating the supply of water in accordance with available quantities.



Haddadin

In a press conference last Tuesday, Dr. Haddadin said that his ministry will take strict measures against those who "monopolize" the water network, be it whether for drinking water, industry, irrigation or other purposes.

Haddadin also added that the law that regulates unlicensed artesian wells, whose number is more than 600 around the Kingdom, will be fully implemented for the first time, but he pointed out that licensed wells will not be affected.

In an official advertisement in the daily press last week, the government asked citizens to close illegal wells, before it takes legal action against violators. The list of names published

in the ad included several high ranking official and former ministers.

Underground water basins supply Jordan with 277 million cubic meters annually but this is slowly being depleted because of excess use of water amounting to more than 515 million cubic meters.

This badly affects the reserves as the ratio of salt in sweet drinking water slowly increase after time.

But inevitably as the water supply decreases, its cost goes up. Haddadin said the government lately approved new prices increases that will take effect from October.

Haddadin said that his ministry had no choice because if prices remain unchanged, then the Water Authority will become bankrupt.

It costs the Water Authority a staggering JD 1 for a cubic meter of water. But Haddadin points out that this will apply only to hospitals, hotels, companies shops and factories.

However, for every household whose water consumption is above the new limit of 50 cubic meters per season will pay 850 fils per cubic meter.

Haddadin said that the new price is expected to reduce the water bill for those people who consume less, while it increases

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Adeeb Abbassi

# Death of a Jordanian hermit

By Marwan Asmar  
Star Staff Writer

HE LIVED as a loner and died a lonely man. And just as in life, Adeeb Abbassi's death carried a poignant message: a statement made by a man who believed in a cause. His death last week, at the age of 92, came few weeks after he began a hunger strike to protest Israel's decision to build a Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem. Tired and worn down by the years, the hunger strike lasted for about two weeks.

His death, after a long illness, and shortly after he began his protest, befitted the hermitic life he led after the loss of Palestine in 1948. He was so moved by this loss that he shut himself away from a cruel world which voted for "the unjust creation of the Jewish state in Palestine." It was also seen as a protest against the great injustices that were leveled against the Arabs.

He never really recovered from the great Arab disaster in Palestine. He stopped wanting to be part of a society in which he had been active. For the next 50 years he remained a recluse until his death.

His hopes dashed, his dreams shattered, nobody in Jordan and the Arab world was to hear about Abbassi until 1977 when he made a rare interview.

Born in 1905 in Al Husn near Irbid, Abbassi was something of an unknown soldier: a man of great intellect whose sword became his pen. For him the pen was mightier simply because of the state of helplessness he felt at the time. Indeed some would argue that this was a reflection of the general Arab helplessness that was felt against the great power rivalry and politics that dominated the region at the time. Centuries of Ottoman rule were followed by British and French occupation of

Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq and the Gulf.

The second Jordanian ever to enter the American University of Beirut, Abbassi's love for the Arabic language was so intense, that he switched from a politics and economics major to Arabic and psychology.

For him studying the Arabic language was a means to reaffirm his Arab identity. Indeed his reaction was easily understood in such a situation of foreign domination. His studies would serve him well later. Up till 1948 Abbassi was active in the political and cultural life of the region, first as a student and then as a writer.

His years at college in Nazareth in the early 1920's and later at the AUB in Lebanon sharpened his critical faculties and left an indelible mark on his character, something that stayed with him for the rest of his life.

During the 1930s and 1940s, he would continue writing in Jordanian, Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian and Egyptian newspapers and magazines. These included *Al Hilal*, *Al Muqataf* and *Al Risala*.

He became so well read that the British mandatory authorities in the inter-war years regarded his writing as inflammatory and banned them. Even his mail was not allowed to get through to neighboring countries. During World War II, the British accused Abbassi of helping the Nazis in their war efforts against the Allies.

Although described of being a recluse, from 1948 onwards, he would strongly deny that in the rare interviews he gave in his later years.

He would point out that although he shunned publicity and led a life of solitude, he always kept in touch with events through radio and newspapers. And of course, his house in Al Husn, which has



Abbassi's house in Al Husn which he later turned into a museum

now been turned into a museum, has always remained open for the few people who ventured into his private world.

As testimony to his intellectual prowess, over the years, he wrote over 90 manuscripts pertaining to literature, poetry, philosophy and astronomy. During his life, he only published one book, *The Return of Lukman*, and a set of poetry collections.

His failure to publish more books could be looked upon in a way as a further demonstration of his anger against the loss of Palestine.

Although he was revered by many Jordanian intellectuals, Abbassi never got the

recognition he deserved in the intellectual arena. This was partly of his own doing as Ravi Al Azizi, a literary man of his generation, points out.

Through his self-imposed exile, Abbassi did himself a great injustice. The feeling was that he could have done more being in society rather than out of it. However this is not to underestimate his great intellectual ability and his literary work.

Former head of Jordan Writer's Association, Ibrahim Abbasi, says that Abbassi never received his due credit in this country.

Abbassi never married. He once told a



Abbassi in later life

journalist that he broke off his engagement to a local girl soon after his mother died. He only wanted to marry to please his mother.

In the final years of his life, Abbassi was cared for by nuns in the Rosary Hospital in Irbid. He left the hospital 90 dunums of land in Al Husn and JD 13,000. A few hours before his death, he donated his corns to the Jordanian Eye Bank.

Sadly his death or what he died for did not represent much to the Jordanian public. Since he started with his hunger strike as a protest against Israeli settlement policies, the press, failed to give his last courageous statement of protest ample coverage.

Like many great men of our time, Abbassi was recognized just when he was about to leave this world. Ten days before his death, Jordanian intellectuals meeting at Amman Private University acknowledged that Abbassi was one of the foremost writers to have an impact on the modern Jordanian short story. ■

## Debate over national identity and political rights resurfaces

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Palestinian-Jordanians of "double political loyalty." Al Majali's statements elicited heated replies from many figures from all sides and public debate was not halted until His Majesty King Hussein interceded to close the topic.

During the forum, which was attended by several Jordanian politicians, Al Majali said the administrative and legal disengagement decision "was incomplete, because it ignored to clarify issues related to the citizenship of the Jordanians of Palestinian origin and their political rights." He believed such an oversight had negative outcomes leading to questions regarding their [Jordanians of Palestinian origin] "status in the future Palestinian state."

Some eastern Jordanians have openly expressed their fear of what they call "the Palestinian political penetration in Jordan."

Despite Al Majali's confirmation that "he is not against Jordanians of Palestinian origin," he stressed that "Palestin-

ian political influence is strong as evident in the activities of the professional associations."

Such an accusation is rejected by the majority of political activists. "This should not be acceptable because you can not set yourself up as a judge of more than half of the population of Jordan," Kamhawi said. "You can not neutralize the population of the country, and claim that you have a healthy situation."

Since the beginning of the democratization process in 1989, most Palestinian factions which existed in Jordan either transformed themselves into Jordanian political parties, which later became licensed, or disappeared from the local political life of Jordan.

The People's Democratic Party (Hashd) and the Democratic Popular Unity Party were both formally Jordan's branches of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine successively.

Hourani said the talk about a

Palestinian political penetration in Jordan is an "illusion." He added that "the PLO and the rest of the Palestinian factions are not much concerned about the conditions of Palestinians in the diaspora in general," so long as "they have all their efforts geared at dealing with the extraordinary situation in Palestine."

Those who defend the so-called Palestinian influence in local Jordanian politics say the shared historical and geographical factors between Jordan and Palestine and thus it is only logical to have the Palestinian issue as part and parcel of the political program of the Jordanian political parties.

Al Majali believes that there is a separate Palestinian identity and there is a possibility for the creation of a Palestinian entity. He asked the Palestinian leadership to "talk about the people of the future Palestinian state, and to specify 'who is the Palestinian.'"

But till then, observers believe that the Jordanian government has to put an end to any debate that harms the national unity among Jordanians of different origins.

"To be active in the political life of the country is a right for all citizens and does not contradict with the right to return for the Palestinians," said Hourani. "There is a political vacuum among the young of Palestinian origin. They have to practice their rights as citizens."

"We want to see an end to the discrimination against Palestinians in public offices, in the armed forces, in the public security and in government institutions," Kamhawi said. "But you can't just sit down and choose your citizens. This does not happen in a state." ■

## Israeli peace movement struggling in state of confusion

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In September, many peace activists despaired when Netanyahu's rightist government opened a new entrance to a tourist tunnel in old Jerusalem, sparking Palestinian rioting that left 75 people dead. But in January, peace groups praised his decision to follow through on an agreement by the previous government to turn most of the West Bank city of Hebron over to Palestinian control.

"The view of Netanyahu has changed every few months," said Mousi Raz, executive director of Peace Now. "I think it's been hard for many people to tell whether he was making peace or not."

Other factors have contributed, including a simmering competition between some of the more established peace groups and their newer rivals, like Dor Shalom.

But the main reason for the movement's malaise, many said, is that, at the heart of the current crisis in the negotiations with the Palestinians, lies the issue of Jerusalem, an emotionally wrenching subject even for leftist Israelis.

Peace talks have been deadlocked since Israel broke ground March 18 for 6,000 Jewish homes on a hilltop known in Hebrew as Har Homa and in Arabic as Jabal Abu Ghneim. The project would complete a circle of Jewish neighborhoods around the traditionally Arab side of the city, which Palestinians view as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Under the Oslo accords, which laid out the framework for the current negotiations, the most sensitive disputes between the Palestinians and Israelis—including Jerusalem, refugees and borders—were to be discussed in talks near the anticipated end of the process.

Palestinians say the housing development is an attempt to

create "facts on the ground" that will pre-empt talks. Israel, in turn, says that nothing in the interim agreements bars it from building within the boundaries of Jerusalem.

To complicate matters, the Labor government, which signed peace accords with the Palestinians in 1993 and 1995, initiated the plans for the housing project. But it never started any building, fearing that the move would disrupt the negotiations.

Thus, when the bulldozers began clearing ground, Labor leaders responded with a message that was anything but clear.

In the end, most said they supported the project but criticized Netanyahu for starting construction at a time of deep distrust between Israel and the Palestinians.

The major peace groups have been unable to agree on a unified position. Peace Now opposes the project but Dor Shalom has opted against taking a position at all.

The mixed messages have left many of the movement's likely sympathizers, including Roken and several friends, uncertain of how to proceed.

Meanwhile, Palestinians, including several involved in the talks, say they are bewildered that Israeli leftists have not responded more dramatically, say, by lying down before bulldozers or holding bigger or more frequent protests. "I think that the majority of Israelis do realize that (Netanyahu) is working against their interests," said Saeb Erekat, who heads the Palestinian negotiating team. "It's very hard to explain why we don't see 300,000 people demonstrating in Tel Aviv. Maybe they know it's a lost battle." ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## Islamic schools targeted in Turkish political fight

Continued from page 1

The academies, the report asserted, are producing an Islamist electoral base. They are growing so fast, it warned, that academy graduates—coupled with those finishing evening or summer courses in the Koran—would be enough to produce a landslide in the 2005 elections, enabling Islamists to rule without restraint by secularist allies.

The Islamic academies have an enrollment of about half a million junior high and high school students in a country of 64 million people. Financed by parents and private donors as well as by the state, the academies often are better equipped and staffed than Turkey's underfunded secular schools.

And because of religious discipline, they are free of drugs, gang fights and other distracting problems, parents and teachers say. Their graduates score higher on university entrance exams.

"Secular forces have themselves to blame," said former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, a socialist. "For decades, the state has left a vacuum in the educational field that is now being filled by radical Islamic groups with ample financial means."

The military is demanding a law that would raise the mandatory period of secular education from five years to eight, thus abolishing the junior high sections of Islamic academies. Erbakan has resisted the change as an unacceptable restriction of free choice.

"The secularism they preach here is like atheism," said Abdullah Gul, Erbakan's minister of state. "I want my son to know something about his religion. If you demand this fundamental right, you are branded a fundamentalist."

Supporters and critics of the system agree on one thing:

Religious training has a bigger impact in junior high than it does later. "After a kid reaches puberty, it's harder to put him in a room and make him memorize the Koran," said one Islamic scholar working for the government.

Aside from the scarves, the prayers, the separate classrooms for boys and girls, and the religion classes, which take up at least 13 hours a week out of 40, the academies look a lot like regular Turkish schools.

Students and administrators espouse tolerance for the rights of less-observant Muslims, including the many teachers allowed to give nonreligious instruction at the schools without wearing scarves.

Asked how many of them hang out with students from secular schools, every girl in one classroom at Istanbul's Kadikoy school raised her hand. "We're not aliens," said a voice from the rear, sending the room into giggles.

"We're part of the system. We respect the system," said Hamit Karadeniz, principal of the 6,000-student Tefvik Ileri school in Ankara. "None of our graduates has ever thrown a bomb or shot a policeman. If they shut us down, they're likely to start a movement of underground schools that will really confront the system." ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



The largest cake in the world

THE MAKING of the largest cake, 2500 meter long and weighing 74,000, was initiated by Hotel Intercontinental Dubai's Executive Chef Uwe Michael in celebration of the 25 anniversary of the United Arab Emirates. It attracted participation of other 25 hotels and caterers, and took Dubai by storm.

The preparation of the cake which took all executive chefs 25 days to prepare, with the aim of breaking the world record and making it to the Guinness Book as the "largest cake in the world." The making of cake, supported by Dubai Economic Department and Dubai Municipality, received enormous press coverage from the local and international media. ■

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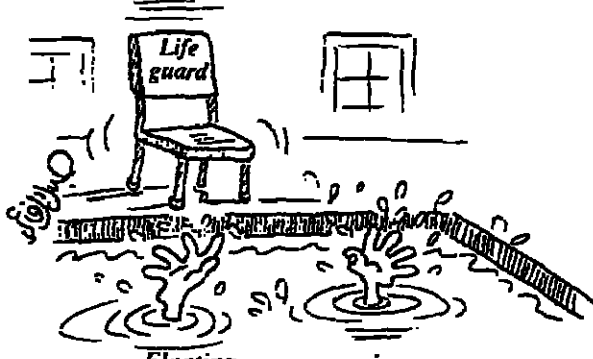
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## JORDAN W E E K



An unconventional  
report on Jordanian  
news and views edited  
by Marwan Al Asmar



Floating prices

### Short stay for Israeli ambassador

A new entry for the Guinness Book of Records. The new Israeli ambassador to Jordan resigned after only four days of settling into his post. Mr. Oded Oran was angry because he was not informed about last week's Aqaba meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This created a bit of controversy in the Israeli government.

Mr. Netanyahu's office later issued a statement saying Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had been informed in advance of the Prime Minister's visit to try and resolve the outstanding water issues which Netanyahu said, created a "mini-crisis" in Israeli-Jordan relations. The statement implied that Mr. Levy, was responsible for informing Foreign Ministry staff, in particular the embassy in Jordan.

Former ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* last week that since the formation of the Netanyahu government, there have been "too many cases of misunderstanding, insufficient coordination, use of improvised and irregular channels, and leaks about secret meetings."

### King cancels visit to Israel

His Majesty King Hussein cancelled a visit to Israel that was scheduled for next month. He was to receive an honorary doctorate from the Tel Aviv Technion (Polytechnic). Jordan's ambassador to Israel Omar Al Rifai said that the timing of the King's visit was unsuitable. According to *The Jerusalem Post*, Al Rifai said that King Hussein would be pleased to accept the title at his palace in Amman or at the Technion at a later time.

### Increasing the puff

It's good news for smokers this week. The Secretary General of the Ministry of Supply, Mr. Ahmed Khreishan, said that the private sector will soon be allowed to import foreign cigarettes. For the last 20 years, the import of foreign cigarettes was limited to the Ministry of Supply. Would this mean that cigarette prices will be floated? Judging from the prevailing government philosophy this will be the case, and the price tag of Rothmans, Dunhill and a Marlboro will depend on supply and demand.

### Going it alone

The Islamic Action Front (IAF) said that it won't be fighting the November elections under a united list with the leftists and nationalist parties. IAF members feel that they would stand a better chance going it alone. Islamists are fielding more than 40 candidates and feel that they have a good chance in forming a sizable proportion of the next Lower House.

### Row over name of new party

The newly formed National Constitutional Party (NCP) came under fire last week from the General Secretary of the Arab Jordanian Constitutional Front Party, Mihem Al Tal. The row is over the name of the new eight-coalition party. In a memo sent to the Interior Minister, Mr. Al Tal said that he felt the word "constitutional" may be confusing, since his party also has the word "constitutional" in its name.

### On the road to Zerga

Zerga has the highest car accident rates in the country. According to statistics there were 3752 car accidents last year resulting in 92 fatalities and 2000 injuries. But that's not all. Because of the chaotic traffic situation in the city, pedestrians are also at risk of being run over.

### Cut off!

About 7000 telephone lines have been cut off this week because subscribers had failed to pay their phone bills. The Jordan Telecommunication Co., had earlier issued warnings to more than 34,000 subscribers by partially cutting off their phones. In the end 7000 subscribers failed to pay their arrears. Does this reflect the state of the economic well being of people in the country? The 7000 figure is certainly too high for a country like Jordan.

### Al Majd editor taken for questioning

The Jordan Press Association (JPA) said that it fully supported Fahd Al Rimawi, chief editor of the weekly *Al Majd*. This was in reply to a statement that Al Rimawi had sent to JPA complaining about his alleged ill-treatment at the headquarters of the General Intelligence Dept. Mr. Al Rimawi said he was called in for questioning earlier last week and allowed to go few hours later. He claimed he was subjected to verbal abuse. Minister of State for Information Affairs, Dr. Samir Mutaweh, said Al Rimawi was brought in for questioning over news published in *Al Majd* that related to the armed forces. However, the JPA argued that if Al Majd had violated the press law, then the matter should have been dealt with by the courts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: What is the future of the peace process, and what can the Americans and Europeans do to 'deblock' the deadlock in the peace process where some of the questions that were put to the French Ambassador in Amman, Bernard Bajolet by *The Star's* Marwan Asmar. Excerpts follow:

People say there is a war situation on the West Bank because of the Israeli intrusions to build a settlement on Jabal Abu Ghneim. Is this a correct reading of the situation?

No, the term of war, really, seems to be excessive. The situation is worrisome. This situation does not date from today or yesterday. What worries me most is the fact that because of the continuing settlements—[also] the [winding] roads which are being built—the room left for the final status shrinks day after day. And I'm afraid that because of that, there will be in the near future nothing to be negotiated on. This is dangerous for the stability of the whole region.

Does the recent US veto on the European resolution on the building of settlements mean that there is a growing schism between Europe and the USA on the peace process?

You know that the US has its own domestic constraints. We regret the two US vetoes on the UN resolutions but in a certain way I think that the US itself regrets that.

Really... I imagine that the US would certainly have preferred not to be confronted with a situation in which it had to resort to a veto.

This shows that the US and Europe can have a complementary role to tackle what you call a deadlock, because I think that the US enjoys the confidence of several parties, first of all Israel of course. The Europeans enjoy a great credibility with a certain number of parties—I think they have each their own constraints—and it is the reason why I think that they can complement their efforts to reach the same objective.



Bajolet

Is there anything substantive that the Europeans can do, they have appointed a peace envoy to move the peace process forward, but there is a deadlock situation: what can they do?

I'm sure that they can offer a substantive role. They already have begun to do so. First, the fact that they have appointed Miguel Moratinos is significant. What struck me is that within one hour of their meeting, the 15 [European] prime ministers decided to appoint a special envoy, define his mandate and choose him. The European Union has made recently very substantial proposals, the letter that the Dutch prime minister (who presently heads the EU Council of Ministers) sent to Mrs. Albright, contains precise proposals to deblock the deadlock, and suggests that these proposals be the object of a common American-European initiative.

I think that the difference of sensitivities between the US and Europe which does exist could serve not as opposing the US and Europe in the region which would be catastrophic but could be used to complement each other.

Neither the US or Europe is rejected by another party, each enjoys the support of such or such a party. If the US and Europe join their effort they have much more chances to help the peace.

You said there are sensitivities between the US and Europe. How deep are they, on the Middle East peace process for instance?

I think the difference of sensitivities between the US and

...I think that the difference of sensitivities between the US and Europe which does exist could serve not as opposing the US and Europe in the region which would be catastrophic but could be used to complement each other

Let me add that neither the US or Europe will make peace for the other parties. If these parties, whatever they are, don't want to make efforts and to go ahead, none of us will be able to do anything.

Europe, is because the US is not against what Europe is proposing, but let's say that the US puts the accent on different things. The difference of sensitivities is enough to make the approach complementary and not redundant. It is not large enough to make it a real problem between Europe and US.

I think that there is no problem, and I feel that cooperation between the US and Europe is much better than what it was just before and after the Madrid Conference.

I'm not saying that the US has completely made up its mind to associate Europe fully to the peace process but I think that—and because of the way our special envoy Moratinos has handled the problem—the US has less reservation towards the role of Europe, and anyway I think the role of Europe doesn't depend on what the US or Israel really want but with the necessity to bring again the parties at the table and re-establish confidence between those parties, and I think for that, Europe can be useful for everybody.

What about Iraq...

## S. Africa turns to private sector for jails

Continued from page 1

if conditions fall below set standards.

Mr. Wessmann said every international company involved in the custodial business was interested in the South African project "because it is probably the biggest there is in the world."

Among those likely to bid are Group 1 and Premier Prison Services from the UK, Wackenhut from the US, and companies from Australia, Canada and Taiwan. They will be expected to contract could be awarded at the end of September, with work starting immediately afterwards.

Mr. Mzimela said he had been appalled by conditions in many South African jails. "On my first tour of inspection I was so shocked I ordered several to be closed. I said I did not care where the prisoners went, so long as they were taken out of those jails."

"Soon after that I started talking about getting the private sector involved, because I

was convinced we would never have the money to do what was necessary. But it was a new concept, and initially people did not know what I was talking about."

But with 80 percent of the minister's budget swallowed by salaries, and much of the rest going on other operating expenses, the ideological opposition to what some members of the ANC viewed as privatisation began to evaporate.

"We have had absolutely no problems with the unions on this," said Mr. Mzimela. "And people understand that if a serious programme of rehabilitation is to be introduced we must have the space and facilities to carry it out."

He has also demilitarised the prison service. "It was in effect a military department. Africans was the only language used, and its primary purpose was to enforce strict discipline. Prisoners could not ask questions and warders relied on force."

Two of the new prisons would be super maximum security "with prisoners locked in their cells for 23 hours a day."

Mr. Mzimela was also investigating the possible purchase of prison ships, and converting disused mining facilities.

Financial Times Syndication

**Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd.**  
Tender invitation for prequalification and bidding tender no. 3/97

**Fuel oil and Naphtha additional storage tanks project**

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. announces tender invitation no. 3/97 for the supply, erection and commissioning of fuel oil and Naphtha additional storage tanks project at the Zarka refinery including three fuel oil storage tanks of 75000 cubic meters total nominal capacity and three Naphtha storage tanks of 43500 cubic metres total nominal capacity, and the accompanying facilities as well as all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the installations, on the basis of a lump sum fixed price turn-key job.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field, and are qualified financially and technically, and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents, not later than 12:00 hrs of 25/6/1997 at the company's head office.

Pre-qualification documents should include the following:-  
1. Financial capability of the contractor (financial references to be provided).  
2. Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.  
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor full names and addresses of firms for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the first circle—Jabal, Amman, against non-refundable J.D. (200) per set, not later than 12:30 hrs of 14/7/1997.

Offers must be submitted at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hrs of Sunday 17/7/97.

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MAY 1997

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LURIE'S WORLD



## Our Say...

## Black hole of sluggish government

DEALING WITH any government body, be it a ministry, department, directorate or agency remains a horrific experience for the majority of citizens in this country. Red tape and an outdated and sluggish bureaucracy are the main features of Jordan's civil service today. But this is not a state secret. Those unlucky enough to have official business with the government; be it to issue a certificate or authenticate one; to renew identity papers or license or to register a car, go through a never ending maze of procedures that make no sense even to those who are paid to implement them.

Many hours, if not days and weeks, are wasted every year by Jordanians who for one unavoidable reason or another are forced to report to some government body on official business.

The administrative black hole has been getting worse in recent years, since regulations and internal by-laws keep changing to the extent that even the most imaginative civil servant can't keep up with them anymore.

And yet, successive governments promised to deal with red tape and simplify procedures. None were able to suggest a comprehensive solution to the problem. When His Majesty the King expressed his outrage, earlier this year, at the incompetence of the sluggish civil service, the previous government declared a state of emergency and set about to look for solutions. Then when the new government took over, one of its main priorities was to deal with the challenge and face the problem head-on. But since then little has been achieved. In fact, it was almost ironic that the government decided to create a so-called investment window for foreign investors, sort of a one stop shop, and forgot that the most important investment in this country is its own citizens. If a one stop shop can be created for foreign investors, why not apply the same principle on all government work?

The over sized government in Jordan is nothing new. Experts tell us that it is the heart of the problem. There were suggestions to rid the system of redundant or unneeded staff. But that solution would have created a social and economic problem of huge dimensions. So after weeks of uncertainty among thousands of government employees, the government backed down and comforted all.

It was business as usual. People cramming the corridors of official buildings as they scurry from one room to the other and then from one building to the other and then from one mountain to the other in order to get their papers in order.

Governments are supposed to serve the interests of the people, not make their lives more difficult than they are already. As our lives become more complicated everyday and as we pretend to move into the electronic age and give the impression of preparing for the advent of the next millennium, the bitter and embarrassing problem of our sluggish and inefficient bureaucracy is a bleak reminder that while much superficial change has taken place in the last 40 years, mentalities remain bogged down in a time frame of their own. The government must act and sacrifices must be made. Hiding our heads in the sand is not even an option.



● A destructive earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter Scale hit the eastern region of Iran on Saturday. Latest government figures put the death toll at 1560 and 2810 injured. Initially the same sources put the figures at 2400 killed and 6000 injured. However, nearly 50,000 people were left homeless. The region later experienced another tremor measuring 4.8 which added to the destruction. More than 1500 tents and 25,000 blankets were distributed.

By Amos Elon

EGYPTIANS READING their daily newspapers in recent months must have thought that their nation's peace with Israel was over.

Government and opposition papers have been filled with attacks on Israel. Israel has been accused of having "declared war on peace."

It has threatened the Arab world with nuclear annihilation. Israelis are said to be monsters who kill small Arab children and destroy Muslim holy places.

As I arrived in Cairo recently, late one night, the young hotel receptionist glanced at my Israeli passport wearily and asked, "Where is all this going to end?"

The question was highly pertinent. Israel was just then changing the status quo in the Jerusalem area and provoking Palestinians. Its new inexperienced government was blundering from one domestic crisis to the next, while at the same time mechanically (but also very reluctantly) following the Oslo agreement with the PLO to the letter.

In the process, the spirit of that agreement—and the great hopes of reconciliation—were being eroded.

The tenor of official Egyptian rhetoric has been especially ominous. One front-page story in the *Al-Ahram* claimed that Israeli doctors had injected 305 Palestinian children with the AIDS virus. An entire week went by before *Al-Ahram* published even a lame correction.

In its very next issue, however, the column was repeated in an article headlined "Israel's AIDS and Satan Worshipers." The writer explained that "the denial does not necessarily mean that the injection of AIDS virus did not happen, for we are taking into account things committed by Israel in the past."

A few days later, Ibrahim Nafie, the current editor in chief of *Al-Ahram*, warned readers not to underestimate the role played in the "moral corruption" among Egyptian youth "by the archery of Egypt and of the Arab and Muslim world, the state that has recently smuggled large quantities of drugs into Egypt with the intention of damaging the minds of the young, in subverting traditional values."

In other stories, Israeli scientists were charged with delivering poisoned seeds to Egyptian farmers and carcinogenic cucumbers and peppers to innocent Egyptian housewives. Netanyahu was another Hitler. A recent earthquake in the Nile delta was ascribed to nuclear explosions directed by scientists working out of Israel's Cairo Embassy.

When a number of affluent teenagers in Cairo and Alexandria were arrested for "Satanism" (they were accused of digging up corpses, drinking cats' blood, burning Korans and engaging in group sex), it was said that they were doing so "with encouragement from Israel's intelligence service, the Mossad."

Twenty years after Sadat's dramatic flight to Jerusalem—to break what he called the "psychological block"—the block is still there. It weighs heavier today than it did in 1977.

The insensitivity of many Israelis to the Arab "other" and to Palestinian human and national rights was paralleled over the past five years by the continuing refusal of Egypt to "normalize" relations with Israel and to see that Israel was not facing only imaginary but also very real dangers.

Both paths to peace seem to be blocked—between the governments and by the people. Refusal to normalize handicaps the development of peace between nongovernmental bodies on both sides.

Among educated Egyptians, brought up during the Nasser era, a sense of national failure complicated their perception of Israel. They were fascinated and repelled by it. Israel's economic and international success still obsesses and bedevils them.

The rise of religious fundamentalism in Egypt, and of religious and national fundamentalism in Israel, has made empathy for the "other" in both countries rarer and more difficult. Both live in Plato's cave. But the shadows and ghosts they see are not the same.

The social gap between them is widening all the time. Israel's per capita gross national product is \$17,000; Egypt's is still only \$610 and is said to be sinking.

Hardly any of those involved in the 1978 peacemaking at Camp David foresaw all this.

## Middle East 'peace'

## Scaling the psychological barrier

On the contrary, at the time Sadat promised a new age of prosperity in Egypt, its population explosion swallowed all the resources that had previously gone into war. Moreover, the intellectual elite in Egypt largely despised Sadat.

Many of its leading figures opposed the peace treaty. When Sadat suddenly made peace with Israel, they felt that he was robbing them of their past. They refused to agree that everything they believed in had simply been wrong.

Little, if anything, was done by Hosni Mubarak, to change their minds. The "psychology" of the conflict hardly interests him. He refused all invitations to visit Israel.

Those involved in the 1978 Camp David accord could hardly have expected that so little peace would be achieved in 20 years on a people-to-people basis.

Tourism between the two countries remains one-sided. Only 12,000 Egyptians requested Israeli visas last year, compared with 320,000 Israelis who visited Egypt. The combined volume of trade (excluding oil) was only \$85 million.

The 1979 peace treaty has sometimes been described as an understanding not between Israel and Egypt but between Egypt and the United States. More than 60 supplementary protocols on "normalization" have remained largely on paper. The protocols provided for exchanges and cooperation in all fields—youth programs and joint sporting events, linked power grids, trade, cultural exchanges, mixed economic commissions, cooperation between universities, scientific institutes, artists, students, teachers and other professionals.

For some reason, the only cooperation that resulted was between agronomists. The little normalization that began under Sadat died with him.

"The government can make as many peace treaties with Israel as it wishes—the peoples remain enemies," Saad Al Din Wahaha, head of the professional association of all Egyptian artists, told me. "The peace treaty will soon be canceled too, you'll see!"

The association is not the only professional syndicate in Egypt that bans all contacts with Israelis and opposes "normalization with the Zionist enemy." In other countries, leftist intellectuals often criticize their governments for not doing enough for peace. In Egypt, they accuse it of doing too much. This was not always the case.

In 1972, six years before the peace treaty with Israel, the Libyan ruler, Muammar Al Qaddafi, on a state visit to Cairo was shocked to discover that some of Egypt's leading writers—including Najib Mahfouz, the Nobel laureate, and Mohammed Sid Ahmed, one of the country's leading political thinkers—were ready to betray the "sacred cause," as Qaddafi put it, to make peace with the enemy of God.

He complained about this to Mohammed Heikal, the high priest of Nasserism and former editor of *Al-Ahram*. Heikal tried to soothe Qaddafi. "They are only writers, you know," he said. "Writers are so imaginative!"

Qaddafi was not reassured. Unable to imagine that some men could make up their minds independently of the dictates of government, he assumed that they echoed later for the same reason.

That words can kill has been demonstrated repeatedly this spring. After a few weeks of attacks on Israel in parts of the Jordanian press, a Jordanian soldier killed seven young Israeli schoolgirls.

After Prime Minister Netanyahu, in the face of dire warnings from his own intelligence people, decided to go ahead with the Jerusalem housing project, the Palestinian truck in Tel Aviv—killing three young women and the peace process as well, Israeli-Palestinian negotiations came to an abrupt halt.

Inevitably, what has come into play is the delusive, paranoid perception of the outside world often found in isolated outposts. If political leaders go on talking, always talking and never listening, numb to the other side's sensibilities and interests and neglecting the popular basis for peace, on their own side and on the other, the little peace they now have will not last.

There will be no need to kill it. It will die by itself.

Amos Elon is the author of *A Blood-Dimmed Tide: Dispatches From the Middle East*. The New York Times Magazine.



Netanyahu: "See how I'm moving forward!"

## US-Israeli-Turkish military alliance to dominate eastern Mediterranean

Control of the Middle East region by the United States, in coordination primarily with its regional strongman, Israel, is about to take another major step.

In the oil-rich area of the Arabian Gulf, Bahrain has become in recent years a US naval base. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are essentially "US airbases." Jordan and Egypt have growing ties with the US military, and Israel, of course, is practically an arm of American military power based on the special "strategic" relationship established in the Reagan years and enhanced ever since.

Now in the latest new twist, it has

been learned that a new military axis of power is being developed—this one combining Israeli and Turkish regional military power with global US power. For the first time this summer the US will be directly involved with joint Israeli and Turkish forces in "joint maneuvers" in the Mediterranean. American forces will be integrally involved and the US has provided the Turkish military with substantial incentives to cooperate ever-more-closely with Israel. In preparation for the combined military training maneuvers this summer substantial and fast-growing contacts are underway at the most senior levels of

the Turkish and Israeli military.

For the Turks, these new steps will enhance their leverage in dealing with both Greece and Syria. Moreover, Turkey may well be on the road to becoming another Algeria. No matter what would be said in public, both Israel and the US would in reality strongly back a Turkish military coup should the populist Islamic-oriented political forces in Turkey push forward with desired social changes or with closer relations with Iran or other regional forces opposed to US domination.

MER

Middle East Beat  
by Khairi Jamel

## Beirut celebrates

THE LONG awaited visit of His Holiness John Paul II to Lebanon has finally materialized. The message of peace carried by this visit is most timely for a country trying to re-establish its position on the map of the Arab world once again, and to relieve its past achievements as a major cultural and financial center in the Mediterranean basin.

Despite the fact that the Maronite community in Lebanon feels excluded and to an extent marginalized in the political process, they stood shoulder to shoulder with their Muslim compatriots in greeting the Pontiff, without the much-talked about illusion that the visit of the Pope is directly related to supporting the Christian community.

One cannot imagine that anyone in Lebanon can still harbor any sort of illusions after the years-old destruction and killing. The fact remains that the holy visit is for the whole of Lebanon, and all its communities. The message of peace and reconciliation is not directed towards anyone in particular, but rather to everyone willing to listen.

It is crucial not to underestimate the effects of such a visit for it carries within it the essence of Christian forgiveness, cohabitation, and respect for life. For the Muslims as well, it gives a clear indication that violence and destruction are not part and parcel of religious belief but on the contrary, criminality is abhorred by God's religions, for they advocate peace and reconciliation among the faithful.

It is an opportunity for the Muslims of Lebanon, to share in this celebration, and eradicate the feelings of ill-will accumulated over the long period of the civil war. Also, one must draw attention to the dangers of taking the visit to Lebanon out of context. The message of the Pontiff is clear in urging the whole of Lebanon to surpass the obstacles of the past, and go beyond the feelings of hatred to establish an atmosphere of reconciliation and harmony.

It is not difficult for our Lebanese brethren to implement the message of the Pope; the manner in which the message can be exercised is the crux of the matter. When peace somehow came back to Lebanon, the Lebanese government ordered the bulldozers to erase all the barriers and battlements, separating the various communal districts from each other, and declared that peace between all prevails.

Consequently, there is no reason anymore for the existence of the manifestations of division and warfare. If one's memory does not betray, the sudden act was executed as if nothing happened before, and the whole past scenario was just a nasty nightmare. Of course many have written at the time, that a deal was struck between various Arab parties, the superpowers have finally agreed to sort out the question of Lebanon, as well as the Syrians and the Israelis have decided to end the conflict, and many other conspiratorial scenarios, which all maybe true, and all equally false.

But unfortunately, there was very little analysis, except from studies on the fringe of the mainstream, that considered the factors contributing to the past violence, and real scientific assessment of the events that led to the conflict and perpetuated it. One neither wishes to harp on the problem, nor lament on it, but rather study it carefully to learn from its lessons, and nip in the bud all tendencies that are likely to emerge in the future that call for sectarianism and religious persecution.

The visit of the Pope, and its message of peace and reconciliation may prove to be the way for both the Christian and Muslim communities in Lebanon, to start in earnest to learn about each other and take interest in each other's communal affairs in a relationship of mutual cooperation, understanding and respect.

## Business scene

■ The financial the Middle East chemicals and industries, about balance sheet at million in 1990 is a rise of 20.24 per cent with 1989.

Its recorded a 27.2 per cent increase in 1990 over the previous year. Net revenues was JD 114.2 million in 1990 as compared to JD 90.5 million in 1989.

■ Zana For Inc. increased its capital to JD 10 million. The company is targeting a 50 per cent increase in its production. The company is also planning to expand its operations in the Jordanian market.

■ The National Bank of Jordan (NBJ) has announced a 50 per cent increase in its capital to JD 10 million. The bank is also planning to expand its operations in the Jordanian market.

■ The Arab Bank has announced a 50 per cent increase in its capital to JD 10 million. The bank is also planning to expand its operations in the Jordanian market.

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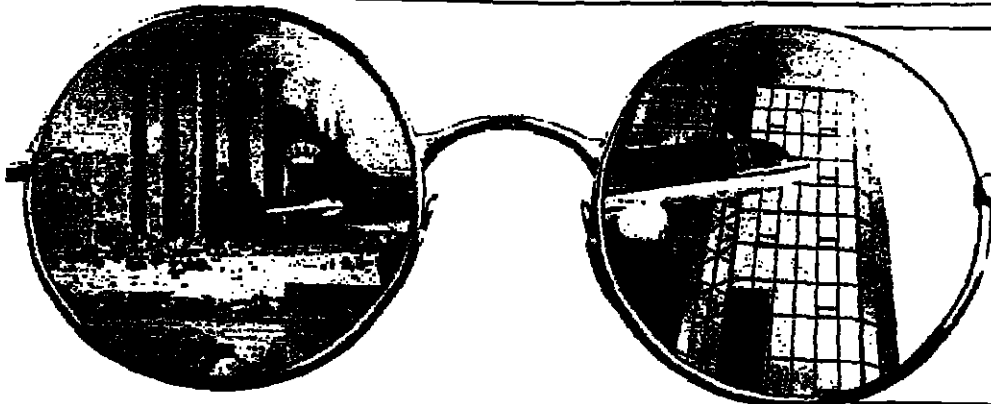
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ROYAL JORDANIAN  
Reflecting the Change.

## Business scene

The financial report of the Middle East Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals Industries, showed its balance sheet at JD 7.3 million in 1996 indicating a rise of 20.2% compared with 1995.

Its fixed assets recorded a growth of 245% in 1996 compared with the previous year. Net revenues increase was JD 114,200. The company was established in 1993 at a paid-up capital of JD 5 million.

Zara For Investment increased its capital by JD 10 million to total JD 50 million. This rise is targeted at ensuring finance needed to carry out the company's tourism projects in the Dead Sea and other parts in the country.

The International Finance Corp. (IFC) is contributing in the increase with \$3 million. This is in addition to an IFC loan of \$15 million to help Zara finance these tourism projects.

The National Industries Co., is modernizing the operational capacity of its production line by introducing computerized systems to monitor quality control. The costs of this are about at JD 1 million.

The company has completed the construction of two new warehouses at JD 200,000.

It plans to boost its plant's production by the end of this year to 10,000 tons. It was established in 1979 and its current capital is JD 6 million.

The Arab Center for Pharmaceutical & Chemical Industries made profits of more than 37% in 1996 compared with 1995. However, its sales fell by JD 681,000 in the same year.

Company sales of pharmaceuticals in 1996 were JD 1,604,610 against JD 1,967,426, a fall of 18.4%, due to reduction in domestic sales.

Its assets by the end of 1996 were JD 74,91,799 against JD 7,498,453 in 1995.

## Companies and Securities Laws revive stocks' trade at AFM

By Itham Sadeq  
Star Staff Writer

IN A bid to activate stock trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), the government has approved the Companies and Securities Laws.

The Lower House has earlier endorsed the companies' draft law, but it had to wait the approval of the securities law.

The two laws function together and can't be separated. Thus, in order to close a chapter of continuous declines in share dealings at the AFM since early 1997, it has become necessary to approve the Securities Law.

Last week, a Royal Decree was issued to endorse the Securities Law, though many deputies rejected such a step while the Lower House is in recess.

After being published in the Official Gazette, the Securities Law, although temporary, will be implemented a month later.

But, economists agree with the government, that is to endorse certain suspended economic laws in a bid to revive the economy.

The implementation of the Security Law is expected by experts to lead to the liberalization of capitals when it

becomes effective. "These laws will greatly help to create the investment climate in Jordan and will certainly lead to positive effects on the economic level, whether it be industrial, commercial or services."

AFM general director, Wahib Al Shaer told The Star that the market's weak performance is mainly attributed to political and regional factors. "Uncertainty in the political arena, makes people unable to look ahead and risk dealing in such a worsening environment."

Al Shaer explained that many teams of funds' managers and brokers who visited Jordan recently, described the share prices at the market to be attractive.

"The index of the P/E price earnings ratio was cut from 18 times to 16 times and lately to 13 times. The P/E average according to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) is 21 times. This makes share prices very low and must encourage dealers interest in the market, compared with 16 times in Egypt," Al Shaer added.

But despite this reduction, the performance of the AFM was unable even to maintain its previous level and the official



Shaer

index fell dramatically since the beginning of this year.

However, only two days after the announcement of the approval of the securities law, the index went up by two points to close at 152 points.

A mood of optimism seems to be gradually restored to the market as dealers and investors are being driven by the approval of the two laws and there is high expectation.

This is encouraged further by the increase of trading in stocks of some of the leading companies. These include the Arab Bank, Housing Bank, the Jordan Cement Factory, whose total dealings exceeded JD 12

million last Sunday.

Moreover, shares of industrial companies saw a noticeable movement after succeeding in getting the UN approval to export their products to Iraq in the light of the oil-for-food deal.

What is encouraging in the new Securities Law is the issue of separating the supervisory role of the stock exchange from its management part.

This complies with world-wide laws and is expected to enhance supervision in the market.

Also a "Securities Committee" is to be created and will have direct contact with the Prime Minister to guarantee the right dealing in securities, and organize, develop and monitor the market. It is hoped that this law will protect holders and investors in these securities against any forgery and malpractices.

A center for these securities will be established soon to register and change ownership of exchanged securities at the course. It will also help to settle the prices of securities among brokers and allow the organizing of open and close investment funds. The law also imposes strict penalties on violations. These vary from financial

and fines that can go as high as JD 20,000 on a three-year imprisonment.

This is not all. For the first time since the AFM was established in 1978, the enlisted companies will be allowed to capitalize their voluntary reserves and accumulated profits by donating shares free of tax. This is seen as a good opportunity for dealers to own shares of leading companies.

## Fastlink and Afkar promote seven are partners in success

JORDAN MOBILE Telephone Services (Fastlink) has appointed Afkar Promoseven as its advertising agency responsible for handling advertising, marketing and public relations. The appointment, to take effect immediately, was agreed upon at a meeting held on 5 May.

Attending the meeting on behalf of Fastlink were: Mr David Bosworth, CEO, and Mr Anwar Atalla, advertising manager; attending on behalf of Afkar Promoseven were Yazid Bitar, general manager, Jorge Hernandez, assistant general manager and Nabil El Kari, senior account director.

Fastlink is the pioneer mobile telephone company in Jordan. Through the use of state-of-the-art technology and high quality service, it aims to provide Jordan with communication facilities necessary for advancing into the 21st century. Afkar Promoseven is among a network of 14 branches that make-up Fortune Promoseven's international group with operations and affiliations in the Middle East, Far East, Europe and the US. Fortune Promoseven provides advertising, marketing and public relations services for multinational clients as well as major local clients through its local offices.

## Jordanian expo seen to enhance inter-Arab trade

MORE THAN 140 local industrial companies are preparing for the annual exhibition of Jordanian products due to be held on 27 May at the Amman International Show, in Marj Al Hamam.

A higher committee from Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) has been assigned to prepare for the expo, headed by the chairman of the Chamber Khaldoun Abu Hassan.

Among participants in the expo are the Central Bank of Jordan, the Industrial Development Bank, the Jordanian Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation (JEDCC), Royal Jordanian, the Jordan Industrial Estates, and

the Free Zones Corp. In addition, the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces will participate in the expo for the first time.

The expo comes within the context of celebrating the 51st anniversary of Independence Day and the 44th anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

The expo is seen as a good opportunity to promote Jordanian products and acquaint others with the latest in Jordanian industrial production.

It also provides potential for these products to enter new markets in addition to enhance their presence in traditional ones.

Khaldoun Abu Hassan sent

invitations to Arab Chambers of Industry, Trade and Agriculture to participate in the expo's activities, and some Arab chambers and investors showed readiness to participate in the venue.

Along the expo, an economic symposium will be held to discuss the economic situation in the Arab World in the light of latest world-wide developments and preparations for the membership in the Euro-Med partnership and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The attendees will also tackle the pressing need to accredit international standards and high qualities, obstacles hindering greater inter-Arab exchange



Abu Hassan

trade and the role of Arab Chambers in the course of economic development.

The ACI has already prepared a program for the participants in the expo to make field visits to Jordanian factories and help them to exchange views and expertise with Jordanian producers and investors.

According to an official source, a guide will be issued by the Chamber shedding light on the course of development in the Jordanian industrial sector.

## British Midland and Lufthansa start codeshare flights

BRITISH MIDLAND and Lufthansa announced last month codeshare flights. From 26 May, British Midland will start services from London Heathrow to Cologne/Bonn in Germany and onwards from Cologne/Bonn to Rome Fiumicino.

This is the first time that British Midland utilized its fifth freedom rights by operating services between two EU countries other than the UK, and will be the airline's first scheduled service into Italy.

British Midland will operate a twice daily return service from Heathrow to Cologne. It will offer the earliest morning departure of any

carrier out of Cologne to Heathrow and the last service back to Cologne in the evening, enabling a full working day in the UK. The schedule from Cologne to Rome will be daily and British Midland will offer a direct service between the two cities.

This is the airline's second route into Germany and follows the successful launch of its Heathrow to Frankfurt service in March 1993.

Maintaining its competitive pricing policy, British Midland will offer a wide range of Business Class and Leisure fares from the UK, including its executive and 3-day Executive fares, in addition to providing its award winning Diamond EcoClass product.

The introduction of the new routes marks the first development of continuing discussions between British Midland and Lufthansa. The new services will benefit from joint sales and marketing activities by the two airlines.

Talks are going on to expand services in other destinations in the UK and Germany. British Midland launched three new routes from Heathrow to Scandinavia, Copenhagen, Oslo and Gothenburg, illustrating a dramatic growth in cities served from Heathrow of 25 percent since the start of the year.









## Foreign Exchange Tuesday, 14 May

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
FF	0.4881	0.4825
YEN	0.1227	0.1233
SPR	0.5624	0.5652
JPY	0.3667	0.3685
CHF	0.0419	0.0421

## MARKET WATCH

10-13 May

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY				
 % 5.77 4.92 3.90	 % 5.45 3.45 3.05	 % 5.00 4.17 3.33	 % 4.17 4.10 3.64				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NAMCO</li><li>• Commercial Industry</li><li>• Arab International Hotels</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Naymat Diet and Hotels</li><li>• NAMCO</li><li>• National Security Profiles</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Racal</li><li>• JAMCO</li><li>• Amman Chair Bank</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Arab International Hotel</li><li>• Jordan Phosphate</li><li>• Philadelphia Bank</li></ul>				
 % 5.00 4.83 2.59	 % 5.26 5.26 4.09	 % 5.56 5.09 5.07	 % 5.34 4.36 3.53				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Aluminum</li><li>• Al-Rai</li><li>• Rafid Plastic Industry</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Union Bank</li><li>• National Aluminum</li><li>• Jordan Tanning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Aluminum</li><li>• Al-Hazrat Insurance</li><li>• Zara Investment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zara Investment</li><li>• Arab Financial Investment</li><li>• National Aluminum</li></ul>				
<hr/>							
General Price Pointer	150,930	152,008	151,840	153,330			
Trade Volume	762978	1224788	645770	1139442			
Stock Volume	785100	544135	533411	523038			
<hr/>							
Highest Traded Stocks							
Solatory House	36399	• The Housing Bank	125660	• Jordan Ceramic	186375	• Jordan Potash	367732

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646499

## PIB launches banking services in Ramallah

AT AN authorized capital of \$20 million, the Palestine International Bank (PIB) was opened last Saturday. The bank's paid-up capital is \$13.9 million.

The PIB which is situated in Ramallah was established in 1996 by Palestinian businessmen and investors from the Arab Gulf.

An official banking source said that PIB is the sixth bank to be owned by Palestinians. Its activities cover the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The bank will provide its clients with 24 hours service, either through telephone calls or through the Internet. Its services include travel cheques, credit cards and auto service.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority (which functions as the Central Bank in the Palestinian territories) stated last year that there are 17 banks with 71 branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Deposits of these banks last year stood at \$1.722 billion.

## Digital Microwave opens office in Amman

AMMAN (Star)—The American-based giant, the Digital Microwave Corporation (DMC) has officially opened a regional office in Amman last Sunday. Minister of Transport and Communications Dr Bassem Al Saket especially came for the occasion.

In a short opening speech, Dr Al Saket welcomed the fact that the company was establishing an office in Amman to serve the Middle East region.

Regional Director of the corporation Mr Kevan Nightingale said it was a hard decision, but in the end the company opted for Jordan instead of Dubai because of the great potential this country offered.

At the head of a large delegation, DMC's Senior Vice President Frank Carretta flew from California especially to attend the inauguration.

The Digital Microwave Corporation, designs, manufactures and markets advanced, high performance digital microwave radios for short and medium haul communications.

The corporation has a factory in Scotland and quite a number of its senior personnel attended.

At the opening ceremony many Jordanian companies as well as personnel from the Jordanian military were invited.

The purpose of the regional office is to provide maintenance for DMC's products in the region as well as make companies and organizations more aware of the corporation's products.

Digital Microwave have so far sold 40,000 radios in over 50 countries in the world.

Regional Director Nightingale (left) with DMC's Vice President Carretta



Minister of Communications, Al Saket (left) giving an informal speech



# Pope visits a Lebanon struggling to recover from civil war

By John Lancaster

BEIRUT—Pope John Paul II arrived here last Saturday to a joyful, flag-waving welcome as Lebanese Muslims and Christians set aside their differences in the hope that his visit will speed political reconciliation and reconstruction in a country still struggling to recover from civil war.

After welcoming ceremonies at Beirut's international airport, where armed militias once reigned, the 76-year-old pontiff made his way into the city by motorcade, riding slowly past gutted, shell-pocked buildings along the infamous Green Line that once divided Muslim and Christian enclaves.

He was cheered by jubilant crowds of Christians, Sunni Muslims and Shiite Muslims, including young women wearing head scarves—a sign of Muslim piety—and clutching yellow-and-white Vatican flags. The visit is the pope's first to the Middle East and the first by a pontiff to Lebanon since Pope Paul VI stopped here in 1964 for a news conference en route to Bombay.

In southern Beirut, a stronghold of the radical Shiite group known as Hezbollah, a poster welcoming the pope appeared alongside a mural of Iran's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ru-

hollah Khomeini.

"He's coming to see the Lebanese, not Christians or Muslims," said Nada Atwa, 28, a Shiite Muslim from southern Beirut, as she waited on the motorcade route near the Green Line. "I hope he brings peace and unity to Lebanon."

The pope has his detractors in Lebanon, among them some Muslim leaders, who see him as overly sympathetic toward Israel, and right-wing Christians, who fear his visit will be interpreted as an endorsement of the Syrian military presence that they oppose.

Helicopters wheeled overhead, sharpshooters took up positions on rooftops, and more than 20,000 Lebanese troops have been deployed in and around Beirut to ensure the pope's safety during his scheduled 32-hour visit.

But most factional leaders appeared to accept governmental officials' argument that the papal presence will boost their efforts to promote stability and security.

Maronite Catholics have expressed hopes that the visit will help restore some of the power and prestige they have lost since the civil war ended in 1990. Maronites, who are affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church but have their own liturgy, make up most of Lebanon's



Pope John Paul II talking to Sheikh Mohammad Shams Al Din (left), and Sheikh Mohammad Rashid Al Qabani, the mufti of Lebanon during a reception held at the presidential Palace in honor of the Pope's visit, Saturday.

Christians—who constitute 30 to 45 percent of Lebanon's estimated 3.2 million citizens. More-precise numbers are not available because the government has not conducted a census, fearing that to do so could upset the delicate power-sharing arrangement among

Shiites, Sunnis and Christians that was instituted at the end of the civil war. The National Assembly is divided evenly between Muslims and Christians.

The pope, at the airport, kissed a box of Lebanese soil offered by Lebanese schoolchildren. In brief remarks, he large-

ly steered clear of politics, dwelling on the need for unity and reconciliation.

"Everyone is invited to engage in the service of peace and reconciliation... so violence will never triumph over dialogue, nor fear and caution over confidence, nor hatred over fra-

ternal love," he said. "On the eve of the third millennium, Lebanon should, while preserving its special riches and remaining as it is, be able to open to the developing realities of modern society."

But the pope also acknowledged that Lebanon is subject to forces beyond its control, noting that he often has called on the international community "to help the Lebanese people to once again find peace in a national territory recognized and respected by all."

His comments were an oblique reference to the continued presence in Lebanon of Israeli forces, who occupy a strip north of Israel's border as a buffer against rocket attacks by Hezbollah guerrillas, and 35,000 Syrian troops, whose intervention ended the civil war but at considerable cost to Lebanese sovereignty.

After his speech at the airport, John Paul made his way under sunny skies to the presidential palace at Baabda, in the hills above Beirut, along a route lined with Vatican and Lebanese flags. There he met with leading Christian and Muslim clerical and political figures, including President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri. The pope then flew by helicopter to a Christian suburb

north of Beirut, where he delivered evening mass to thousands of young people.

Among the harshest critics of John Paul's visit is Walid Jumblatt, a leader of Lebanon's Druze sect and a member of Hariri's government. In an interview with *As Saif* newspaper last Friday, Jumblatt accused the Vatican of "right-wing"—meaning pro-Israel—leanings and warned that the pope's visit "will fuel sectarianism on both sides."

However, Hezbollah, which operates as a legal political party here, has welcomed the pope's visit. "We are waiting for this visit with hearts filled with love and minds open to dialogue. The Holy Father has nothing to fear in Lebanon," Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, Hezbollah's spiritual leader, told the *Rome La Repubblica* newspaper.

Against the stark backdrop of Beirut's war-shattered skyline, Pope John Paul II brought 300,000 Lebanese Christians and Muslims together last Sunday for a Roman Catholic Mass, urging them to renew their country's "historical mission" as a model of coexistence. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

## FBI starts surveillance of officials for leak, sources say

By Brian Duffy and Nora Boustany

WASHINGTON—FBI agents investigating whether a US government official may have passed sensitive information to Israeli intelligence began conducting surveillance of several high-ranking officials of the State Department and the National Security Council staff in recent weeks, according to sources knowledgeable about the inquiry.

The sources cautioned that the FBI has not determined whether any of the individuals placed under surveillance had acted improperly, saying their names had been placed on a list of possible suspects—known as a "bigot" list—because of their access to certain information.

Attorney General Janet Reno confirmed last week that an investigation is under way involving a conversation intercepted last January that suggested Israel may have an intelligence asset who can obtain sensitive US information.

"We have an ongoing investigation, so I can't comment," Reno said at her weekly Justice Department news briefing.

The conversation between two Israeli intelligence officers—one in Washington and the other in Tel Aviv—was intercepted by the National Security Agency. The officers referred to someone code-named "Mega" and an attempt to obtain a sensitive American document.

Israeli authorities have denied emphatically that they have conducted improper intelligence-gathering operations in the United States or that they have improperly received sensitive US government documents from officials here.

Officials in Israel, while not denying that the intercepted conversation took place, offered varying explanations suggesting it had been misunderstood by US authorities.

"I know what this thing is," Danny Naveh, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet secretary, told Israeli *Army Radio*. "I can tell you that I know the facts... (and) when the truth becomes clear, I believe everyone will understand how false and ludicrous the story is."

One source said a senior Israeli intelligence official in Tel Aviv told Israeli reporters that Mega did not refer to a US official but to "something else." The official refused to elaborate.

Still another Israeli official reportedly told Israel's *Haaretz* newspaper that the reference to Mega apparently resulted from an error in decoding or translating the conversation between the two Israeli officers, and apparently was a reference to "Elga." He described that as a term that Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, used to use for the CIA.

US officials declined to comment on the various Israeli responses.

The January conversation between the two Israeli intelligence officers took place in Hebrew over a secure line, US officials said. A source who has seen a transcript of the NSA intercept said it had been translated "awkwardly," but US officials with knowledge of the FBI inquiry said it appeared to refer to someone in the upper reaches of the US government who had provided information to Israel in the past.

The transcript refers to a request by Eliyahu Ben Elissar, Israel's ambassador to Washington, to an embassy intelligence officer to obtain a copy of a letter from then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The letter provided US assurances to the Palestinians after successful negotiations to withdraw Israeli troops from most of the West Bank city of Hebron.

According to the source who has seen the transcript, the intelligence officer in Washington told his superior in Tel Aviv that "the ambassador wants me to go to Mega to get a copy of this letter." The supervisor rejected the request, the source said, quoting the NSA transcript as saying, "this is not something we use Mega for."

FBI officials would not comment Thursday, but counterintelligence specialists said the fact that bureau authorized surveillance operations on specific individuals in the government indicated they believed Mega referred to a US official.

Counterintelligence investigations typically begin with an analytical inquiry to determine which individuals in government had access to information that had been compromised. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

By Barton Gellman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—Eight months pregnant and wobbly on her feet, Qudsiya Diab Manko traveled recently to Israel's Interior Ministry for what she thought would be a joyful milestone. After years of waiting, the East Jerusalem Arab had been summoned for a "positive answer" on her request for legal papers for her husband.

Manko, 29, knew something had gone wrong when the permit clerk produced a form letter typed in Hebrew, which she could not read.

"I asked him what was written there," recalled Manko, who was born the year after Israel occupied her neighborhood in 1967. "He said, 'Everything is fine, just give me your identity

## Israel stripping many Arabs in east Jerusalem of identity cards, residency rights

card." I gave him my ID and he gave me the paper and he said, "You, your husband and your children have 15 days to leave the country." Then he said goodbye."

Manko, whose first name means "Jerusalemite" in Arabic, is one of more than a thousand Arabs whose right to live in East Jerusalem has been revoked by Israel since last year. She learned, after trudging through the rain from office to office the

next day, that she has no right to a hearing or appeal.

"I am afraid to give birth because I have no papers," said Manko, who is due any day. "I don't know which hospital to go to. How will I register? How will I get a birth certificate?"

The Israeli practice of stripping East Jerusalem Arabs of their legal papers, begun in the last months of the previous government and intensified since Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu came to power, is transforming those affected into illegal immigrants in the city of their birth.

With 1,047 cases acknowledged by the government since last year, and thousands more family members affected in practice, the campaign has reached a scale at which it is beginning to shift the city's demographic balance.

Less publicized than conflicts over Jewish home-building in

East Jerusalem and the West Bank, the confiscation of Jerusalem IDs forms as large in the popular Palestinian belief that Israel intends to impose its will instead of negotiating as promised on the holy city's future.

Human rights groups call the campaign a "quiet deportation," and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told foreign diplomats in March that it amounts to "a serious ethnic-cleansing campaign."

Israeli officials deny a political motive. They say the East Jerusalem Arabs are losing their papers under neutral rules that apply to other nationals as well.

Manko and others like her, they maintain, are forfeiting their right to live here by moving, albeit temporarily, outside Jerusalem or by acquiring residency rights in another country. Israeli Jews are not similarly affected, they said, because they are citizens and not subject to the same rules.

Under US and international pressure, Netanyahu said on CNN earlier that he will "make it easier for those who have lost their identity cards to get them back." He has not, however, ordered a halt in the revocation of Arab ID cards or drafted legislation to do so.

David Bar Ilan, his director of communication, said Netanyahu wants to change the law but that "will not be an easy matter because...there may be members of the coalition who object to it strenuously."

The man most responsible for enforcing the policy, Interior Minister Eli Suissa, is one of those. He said his ministry's goal, acting within the law, "is to prevent a flooding of Jerusalem" by Arabs and to promote "a rise in the Jewish population."

"We will fight with all our power in the war over Jerusalem, whether through this law or through the building and planning law or another law," he said in an interview. "It does not matter what means I use."

The identity cards in question, granted to East Jerusalem Arabs after Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 War, confer the right of "permanent residence." Although falling short of citizenship, the cards entitle their holders to live and work in the city without the special permits required of other Palestinians.

The loss of legal papers makes normal life impossible and exposes those without them to the risk of random arrest. Those who remain here illegally lose their right to receive health care, collect social insurance and enroll their children in school. Some lose the only means they had to travel across international boundaries.

Among those ordered to leave their homes in Jerusalem are 105 Arabs who hold US passports or green cards, a fact that has drawn sharp but thus far fruitless protests from the United States. Kathy Riley, chief US consular officer in Jerusalem, said she had five or six meetings with the Interior Ministry.

"We're asking, 'Why have you changed this all of a sudden? For 30 years you haven't had this policy. Why now are you implementing this?'"

The Israeli government also has all but halted the granting of "family reunification" permits. Interior Ministry spokeswoman Tova Elinson said, "We don't have the staff" to process the backlog of 8,000 Arab requests since 1994. During the same period, her ministry approved 236,268 applications for citizenship for Jews or their family members abroad.

Israel's legal argument rests on the status of "permanent resident" granted to the 66,000 Arabs it counted in a 1967 East Jerusalem census. East Jerusalem Arabs, who have since grown to number 160,000, moved freely back and forth to the West Bank, neighboring Arab countries and overseas.

But beginning in 1988, Israeli

governments sought and obtained authority from the Supreme Court to treat East Jerusalem Arabs, in effect, as immigrants under Israel's Law of Entry.

Suissa, the cabinet minister, explained that Palestinians are trying to transfer large populations of Arabs back to Jerusalem for political reasons, "and I don't intend to help them."

The records of human rights counselors do not support that claim. Most of those stripped of their papers are already living here, and they are losing their legal status after examinations.

Manko, the pregnant 29-year-old, was born and raised here by a family that lived and owned property in Jerusalem for generations. In 1985 she married a cousin who did not have the right to live in Jerusalem.

They lived together in Jordan under what Israel then called its "open bridges" policy. But Manko maintained her Jerusalem ID by spending two to six months a year with her parents here.

In 1994, Israel began accepting applications by Jerusalem Arab women for "reunification" ID cards for their husbands. Manko and her husband returned and applied for one. They have lived here continuously since, enrolling their children in schools and paying municipal taxes and \$312.73 a year for government-mandated social insurance.

In March, three years after she returned to Jerusalem, the Interior Ministry decided Qudsiya Manko must leave. "I was flabbergasted. I didn't know what was happening," Manko said. "When I went to the director, the words wouldn't come out. I was afraid I would start screaming. It's impossible that I would leave. This is my country, and one's country is in one's blood." ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Hamas political leader Dr. Musa Abu Marzouk (left) talking to one of the Hamas members, Khalid Mishal during a press conference held in Amman last week. "I can do what I want to do," Abu Marzouk said in an interview last Thursday morning. "I am a free man."

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15 MAY 1997

By Anca de M...  
Special to The Star

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15 MAY 1997

P E O P L E

THE STAR 7



## Italian concert in Amman

ON SATURDAY 17 May at 8 pm a concert is given by the Italian group Trio Doppler at the new "City Hall" of the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM).

It is organized by the Italian Embassy in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts and GAM.

A unique chamber ensemble it was founded in Rome by Franz Albanese and Deborah Kruszynski in 1978. Named after Franz Doppler, the 19th century composer and virtuoso, the Trio has revived numerous forgotten works written for their delightful combination of flutes and piano, and has added many new pieces by the finest contemporary composers.

The trio Doppler has performed all over the world including in New York's Carnegie Hall

in 1989 as well as in important international festivals.

Their recordings of both modern and classical works have won much praise, and the ensemble has been heard on radio and television in Italy and abroad. The Trio Dopplers' programs offer a fascinating mixtures of styles from Bach and operatic paraphrases to challenging and stimulating modern compositions.

In Amman the Trio Doppler will perform, pieces by Donizetti, Pizzetti, Doppler, Jeng, Albanese and Verdi.

The entrance tickets and JD 6 for adults and JD 2 for students. All proceeds will go to the orphanage of the "Al Hussein Welfare Society."

## Najia Mehadji

# A subjective view of the Dome

By Anca de Maio  
Special to The Star

In the hall next to Said Nuseibeh's photos of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, Darat Al Funun is hosting an art collection on the universal theme of the "dome" by the Paris-based Moroccan artist Najia Mehadji. With the intention of highlighting their complementarity from 13 May to 12 June, concrete images and geometrized abstractions, realistic colors and black and white platonic ideas, and synthetic universality dialogue perfectly beauty and spiritual aspiration.

"The fundamental idea for my work on is that the symbolic forms created by man have been abstracted from the real world and these always refer to something real," Mehadji underlines. "I seek to find connections between origins of geometric forms. I began focusing on the 'dome' in 1994 and done a lot of research on Arab and universal architecture. In all cultures the dome is the symbol of the sky," she points out.

Eighteen collages on canvas revealing apparently fixed geometric forms, crystal-like octagons, smooth squares, blurry circles, transparent volumes and pyramids, are the expressions Mehadji gives to her subjective philosophy of the "passage", that is the transition between the contingent and the transcendent.

"The dome is based on the octagon. Inscribed by the shift-staggered squares—the square being the symbol of the earth—the octagon I frequently use symbolizing the upward transition between the earthly world and the mysterious sky," she explains. "I am interested in this state of being in between two worlds, maybe because I live between France and Morocco."

Born in Paris, Mehadji visited for the first time her parents' native country at the age of 10 and found the Arab ornamental mosaic particularly beautiful. "In 1970 I studied mosaic art in the Beaux Arts Faculty of the Sorbonne University. I took courses of painting and etching, but it is the mosaic, especially the Arab *zellige* with its geometrization of vegetable and cosmic natural forms (such as leaves and stars), that made me interested in the origins of decorative abstract figures," she continues.

Abstract signs decorating Berber pottery and carpets are all symbols referring to nature. The other day, while contemplating the shadow of a fig leaf in the gardens of the Darat, she became convinced that the origin of the eight-cornered star motif of mosaics must have lied in such a shadow projected by the sun in the zenith position. By her own deduction she followed the logic that demonstrated a close resemblance between Sumerian writing and the prints left by birds on the sand.

"Nomadic tribes constantly lived in the open under the Dome of the sky and developed a deep relation with the planets," says the artist. "In the desert, contact with the sky is direct and fundamental to man. The moving cosmogonic dome of the Al Hamra at Granada in Spain built in the 11th century is the best example of this. The stars, moon and sun of the dome were moving in parallel to the planets," she adds. The infinite sky is the only thing people have in common, since on earth there are so many frontiers, she states.

Having worked on the myth of Icarus (1985-86), the Japanese Timespace (1990) and the pyramids (1992-94), Mehadji worked on paintings and etchings dedicated to the octagon and the diamond.

She has adopted the theatrical concept of *arte povera*. As a student at the Paris VIII University from 1972 to 1975, she did a lot of theatrical "lab research" on body expression. Hence the gesture, painting technique she employs in her works.



Mehadji's painting technique is simple, yet full of nuances. She first leaves prints on the canvas from a white-painted sheet by large arm gestures and then glues the collages previously painted in black. The glue is colored and the stains left by the pressure of the hand on the canvas are not removed, but blurred with the fingers.

Occasionally the black and white contrast is replaced by the blue-red combination. The white prints are almost expressionistic and make one doubt the mathematical stillness of the figures. The emotional and physical gestures confer internal dynamism to the apparently motionless forms. They move just like the stars, although unnoticed. "The diamond figure in particular has revolved around its own axis as planets do in space," she stresses. The arbitrary traces of the body counterpoise the perfect lines and proportions of the geometric figures.

The place of each picture follow a precise

order. On the right side wall, the paintings hang on an invisible trajectory describing the mathematical shape of the infinite. On the other side, among other big and small format "domes," two are set on top of the other. The upper represent three different phases of the moon, while the other is dedicated to the earth. The similarity between these "domes" and motifs decorating the "Dome of the Rock" is discreet but relevant.

"According to architectural rules, the base of the building should be square and the dome should rely on an octagonal structure. What is amazing in the case of 'the Dome of the Rock' is that the base itself is octagonal," notices the

artist. "I think they could do without the square, because the rock lies in the middle under the golden dome," she adds.

## The Disney Channel—Middle East meets with overwhelming response

SINCE ITS launch on the Orbit Satellite Television and Radio Network on April 2, The Disney Channel—Middle East has met with an overwhelming response from the network's viewers, who have enjoyed one month's free subscription to the service.

From the premiere of the Disney classic "The

Jungle Book" to live action and animated series such as "Home Improvement," "Mickey Mouse and Friends," "Quack Attack" and "Empty Nest," viewers have been treated to a round-the-clock selection of premium family programming, available exclusively on The Disney Channel.

"Given the importance of the family in our region, we had anticipated that the service would have a strong appeal for our audience. However, take-up even during this free period has exceeded all our expectations," commented Mohammed Basrawi, Orbit's vice president of programming. "Our Customer Service Center has been inundated with calls praising The Disney Channel and inquiring about subscription."

"The Channel has launched with a strong line-up of quality programming and a broad variety of shows catering to the young and their families alike. We now must focus on constant improvements, paying close attention to the response of our audience," commented The Disney Channel Managing Director Scott Hicks. "With Orbit and a strong Disney Channel team in place, we are confident that IDC-ME will enjoy the same success as Disney channels elsewhere."

The service, specifically developed for families in the Middle East and North Africa, offers an enticing line-up of originally-produced programs and quality Disney entertainment.

## Amman tour operator stars in BBC business programs

A SIX-part BBC World Service series, on the importance of marketing, features a young Jordanian businessman as one of the main experts. Mohammed Qawasm, who runs Master Tours at the 7th Circle City Terminal, describes how he built his business around a philosophy of putting the customer first.

The program, started this week, and runs until June, is about the importance of marketing for business success. Qawasm, who worked in the travel business for 11 years, started his new company last year and already is one of the fastest growing travel and tourism operators in Jordan. Master Tours provides the whole range of services from air tickets to individually designed tours of Jordan, Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

The idea behind the programs is to provide advice for new growing business, with emphasis on young would-be entrepreneurs in Asia and Africa. They are based around interviews with successful business people, like Mohammed Qawasm, who describe their own experiences, the case study material is then analyzed on air by marketing expert Professor Malcolm Harper from the United Kingdom's Cranfield School of Management.

The first program, broadcast last Tuesday, dealt with the importance of marketing. Subsequent programs, at the same time every week at 19:15 GMT consider pricing, packaging and presentation, advertising and customer service.

## Art exhibition Giving Dana a helping hand

AMMAN (Star)—In today's hectic world, art has become one of life's little pleasures. It is with this in mind, that the Chancery of the Embassy of Pakistan in Jabel Luweibdeh was transformed into a living hall, designed to promote art, culture and social development for the community.

In keeping with this philosophy, the Quaid-e-Azam Hall named after the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, is today hosting an art exhibition for the people of Dana.



The Friends of Dana is a voluntary charitable society, established in Amman in 1991, to raise funds to help the people of Dana in restoring their homes and generally raise their living standards.

The Pakistani Embassy feels that the art exhibition, in aid of the people of Dana, is a worthy objective that deserves full support, an embassy official said.

The Quaid-e-

Opened last Tuesday, and under the patronage of the Pakistani Ambassador in Amman, Mr. Ali Sarwar Naqvi, the exhibition is being held with the cooperation of the Friends of Dana and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

On display is an impressive collection of art works ranging from paintings, sculptures, mosaic and ceramics works. In addition, there is display of indigenous jewelry and food products, produced by the people of the Dana Valley.



Cutting the ribbon: Ambassador Naqvi (center), with Minister of Public Works Nasser Al Lawzi (left), and Mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality Mamdouh Al Abbadi

Azam Hall was opened in December 1996 by Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Abdullah Ensour and Begum Shaista Ikramullah, former Pakistani member of Parliament, and mother of Her Royal Highness Princess Servath Al Hassan.

The same embassy source said that the Embassy would be ready to host and extend assistance related to similar charitable and social

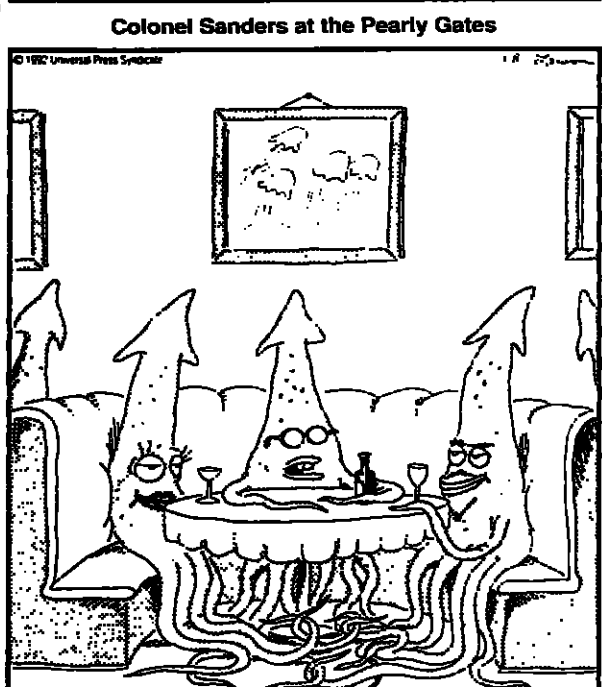
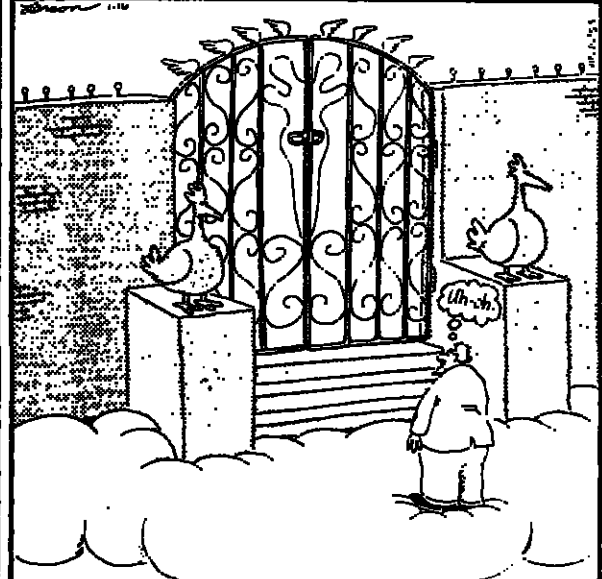
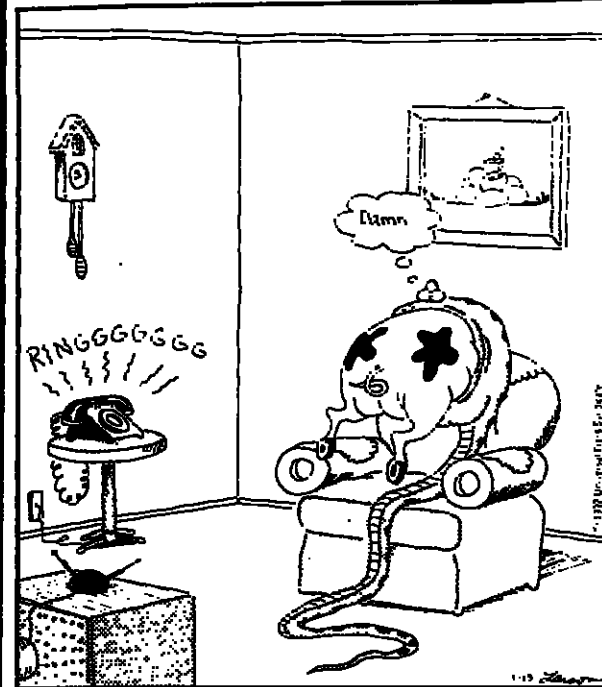
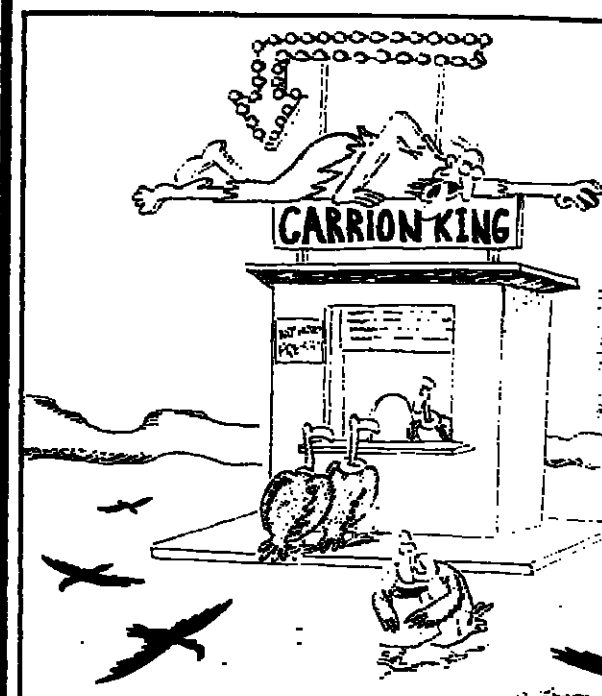
welfare causes in Jordan.

The proceeds of the exhibition, which continues till 20 May, will be used for the development of the Dana village.

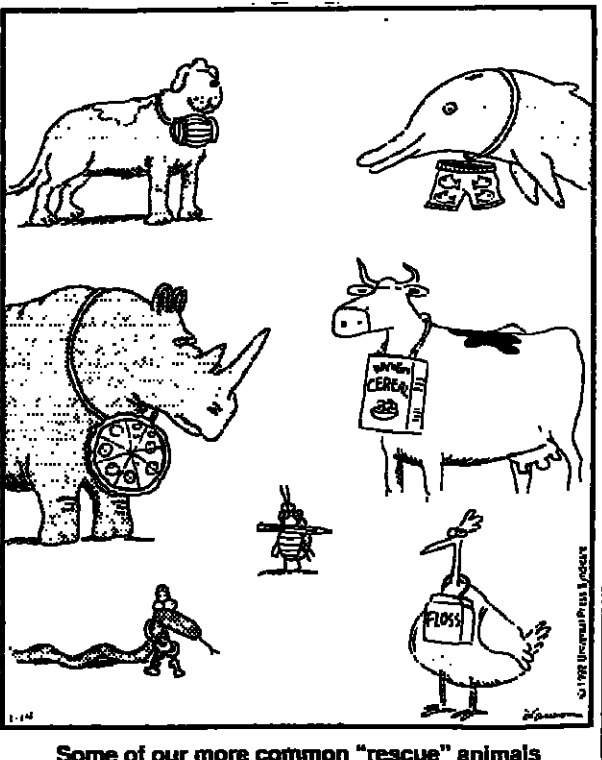
The opening ceremony was also attended by many of Amman's diplomatic community and top Jordanian artists like Haid Nasser, some of whose works are displayed in the exhibition.

## THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Darren was unaware that, under the table, his wife and Raymond were playing "tentacles."



Some of our more common "rescue" animals



# Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

## Oded Eran, l'ambassadeur israélien éclair

● L'ambassadeur israélien en Jordanie, Oded Eran (à gauche sur notre photo), a démissionné de son poste mardi, une semaine après avoir pris ses fonctions. Il a pris cette décision pour protester contre le fait de ne pas avoir été informé à l'avance de la rencontre entre M. Netanyahu et le roi Hussein le 8 mai dernier à Agaba. Les deux hommes s'étaient rencontrés pour tenter de résoudre la crise qui avait surgi la même semaine sur la question du partage des eaux entre les deux pays. Selon la radio israélienne, M. Eran aurait expliqué dans sa lettre de démission qu'il n'y avait « pas de place pour sa fonction ». « Je n'ai aucune intention d'être un censeur ou un obstacle à ces rencontres, mais il est nécessaire d'informer l'ambassade que de telles actions sont entreprises ». A la suite de l'annonce de sa décision, Israël s'est dit « désolé » par la démission de son ambassadeur en Jordanie. Le porte-parole de M. Netanyahu, Shai Buzak, a toutefois déclaré mardi que le Premier ministre avait informé le chef de la diplomatie israélienne David Levy de la rencontre d'Agaba et qu'il revenait à son ministère d'avertir l'ambassadeur israélien d'Amman. M. Netanyahu a également invoqué le caractère « secret » de cette rencontre pour expliquer la mise à l'écart de l'ambassadeur israélien.



## Droits de l'Homme

### Un partenariat difficile à appliquer

Issu de la déclaration de Barcelone de 1995, un partenariat euro-méditerranéen dans le domaine des droits de l'Homme se développe peu à peu. Il se heurte cependant à de nombreux obstacles, et notamment à la politique israélienne qui empêche une coopération globale.

**Réunis au Caire** du 3 au 10 mai, les participants du premier atelier du programme euro-méditerranéen dans le domaine des droits de l'Homme ont exprimé leur crainte que « l'intransigence israélienne vis-à-vis des droits des Palestiniens n'aboutisse à la mort de la déclaration de Barcelone ».

La déclaration de Barcelone, signée par 27 États en 1995, a été adoptée par la réunion qui a été organisée par la Fédération internationale des droits de l'Homme (FIDH) et l'Organisation égyptienne des droits de l'Homme (OEDH). Soutenu par la Commission européenne, le programme euro-méditerranéen a pour objectif de mettre en œuvre la partie relative à la promotion de la démocratie et des droits de l'Homme dans ladite déclaration. L'étape du Caire sera suivie par quatre autres ateliers au cours des deux prochaines années.

L'atelier de la semaine dernière a reçu l'aval du ministère égyptien des Affaires étrangères dont le représentant a assisté à toutes les séances. Cette participation a été soulignée par les organisations présentes, et en particulier l'OEDH qui ne jouit toujours pas d'une reconnaissance officielle malgré ses dix années d'intense activité. Ce soutien du ministère des Affaires étrangères a été considéré comme une reconnaissance de facto de la part du gouvernement égyptien.

Cet atelier a réuni les organisations des droits de l'Homme

d'Algérie, d'Égypte, de Jordanie, du Maroc, de Palestine, de Syrie, du Soudan, de Tunisie, ainsi que la FIDH et différents experts internationaux. Interrogé sur l'absence d'Israël, pays signataire de la déclaration de Barcelone, un responsable de la FIDH a précisé qu'aucune invitation n'avait été adressée aux organisations israéliennes. Pour lui, « le but de cette réunion était de renforcer le rôle des organisations des droits de

liens dans les territoires palestiniens et son silence par rapport à la décision de la Cour suprême israélienne légitimant la torture sur les prisonniers palestiniens. Une pratique qui a été vigoureusement dénoncée la semaine dernière par le comité anti-torture de l'Onu. Plusieurs participants ont estimé que les réalisations accomplies dans le cadre de la déclaration de Barcelone étaient modestes. Les événements poli-



tiques, et en particulier l'impasse actuelle dans laquelle se trouve le processus de paix, expliquent l'insuffisance des résultats. Certains ont appelé l'Europe à exercer une pression économique sur Israël pour l'obliger à appliquer les accords de partenariat qui insistent sur le respect des droits de l'Homme par les pays signataires. Raji Sourani, directeur

de l'Homme dans leurs sociétés. Or, une bonne partie de ces organisations implantées dans la région font déjà l'objet de suffrages de tracasseries et n'ont pas besoin d'ennuis supplémentaires. Il semblerait de plus que l'on reproche à l'ACRI, organisation israélienne membre de la FIDH, son soutien à la construction des colonies isra-

du Centre palestinien des droits de l'Homme, se montrant plutôt amer au cours de cette réunion. « Malgré la condamnation d'Israël par la commission onusienne des droits de l'Homme en ce qui concerne le bouclage des territoires, l'usage de la torture et la politique de colonisation, les Européens continuent d'avoir les mêmes liens économiques avec Israël ». Raji Sourani a rappelé que 72% des échanges commerciaux de l'État hébreu se font avec l'Europe.

Outre l'étude des conventions régionales et internationales, l'atelier a discuté de la situation des droits civiques, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels dans les sociétés arabes, et en particulier en Égypte. Les questions de torture, de droits des femmes et des enfants, de l'immigration ont également été discutées. Le dernier jour a été consacré « aux défis des organisations arabes des droits de l'Homme ». L'institutionnalisation de ces organisations ainsi que les relations qu'elles entretiennent avec les différents gouvernements ont été des thèmes assez chauds qui ont provoqué d'importants débats.

Le ressort de cette réunion une volonté commune de poursuivre, et d'approfondir, le dialogue euro-méditerranéen afin de promouvoir les droits de l'Homme dans la région.

Un rendez-vous à d'ailleurs déjà été fixé pour une nouvelle rencontre au Maroc en 1998.

Suleiman Sweiss

## Palestine

### La fierté de Netanyahu

A la recherche d'une solution pour relancer le processus de paix, les Américains se heurtent à l'intransigence de M. Netanyahu qui revendique avec fierté la relance de la politique de colonisation.

était fier d'avoir envoyé les bulldozers israéliens à Jabal Abou Ghneim.

Dans le même temps, un centre d'études américain a révélé l'existence de plans pour un « plus grand Jérusalem » préparés par le ministère de l'Intérieur israélien et la mairie de Jérusalem. Ce projet vise à annexer la ceinture des colonies juives à la ville de Jérusalem afin de constituer une forte majorité juive au sein de la population, et faire ainsi avorter toute possibilité de transformer la partie arabe de Jérusalem en capitale d'un éventuel futur État palestinien.

Dans cette atmosphère empoisonnée, les Israéliens, aidés par les Américains, cherchent la reprise des négociations, pour le plaisir d'avoir des négociations. Les Palestiniens restent eux que les négociations

ont été arrêtées pour une seule raison: la politique de colonisation, qui est une violation des accords d'Oslo. La reprise de toute discussion est donc conditionnée à l'arrêt de cette politique de colonisation.

Accueillement. L'administration américaine s'emploie à préparer une réunion officielle entre Israéliens et Palestiniens, probablement à la résidence de l'Ambassadeur américain de Tel-Aviv. Le problème de la démarche américaine est qu'elle refuse toute intervention des Nations unies ou de l'Europe pour tenter de débloquer la situation. Israël reste ainsi l'enfant gâté des États-Unis. Mais jusqu'à quand?

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi



Dennis Ross s'est rendu lundi à Amman où il a rencontré le roi Hussein et le prince Hassan.

## Education

### Le coin des écoles

Chaque mois, le Jourdain ouvre sa page aux centres d'apprentissage du français. Un espace réservé aux écoles, universités ou lycées souhaitant parler de leurs activités, ou bien aux élèves désirant publier un article.

**En quittant la Jordanie** le mois dernier après y avoir passé treize jours, onze élèves du collège Edouard Manet de Marseille ne formulaient qu'un seul souhait: pouvoir revenir un jour dans le royaume hachémite. Ce voyage était organisé dans le cadre d'un échange avec le collège de Nazareth d'Amman, douze élèves jordaniens ayant eu la chance l'année précédente de se rendre en France.

Sœur Mounira Helou, directrice de l'Ecole Nazareth et Madame Marguerite Demetrescu, professeur de français responsable des échanges scolaires, ont déployé de nombreux efforts pour que ce groupe soit reçu dans les meilleures conditions possibles.

En plus des principaux lieux touristiques de Jordanie, les élèves français, accompagnés par un professeur et un conseiller pédagogique, ont pu découvrir certaines des institutions du pays. Ils ont notamment visité le Parlement jordanien, et ont été reçus par le président de l'Assemblée nationale, M. Saed al Sour, Ils lui ont remis à cette occasion des

livres de la part de M. Jean-Claude Gaudin, maire de Marseille et ministre chargé de l'Aménagement du territoire, et de M. Felix Weygand, président du Conseil général des Bouches-du-Rhône.

Au cours de cet échange, les élèves français ont pu se rendre compte de la liberté de culte qui existe dans ce pays, en se rendant à l'Eglise Nazareth ou bien à la Mosquée du roi Abdallah.

Pour les adolescents des deux pays, cet échange était l'occasion de découvrir un pays lointain possédant une autre culture. Ils ont tout d'abord appris à se faire des amis à distance, grâce à une correspondance régulière, puis ont appris à se parler, et ainsi à mieux se connaître. Des relations qui ont fait naître entre eux des sentiments de respect réciproque et de tolérance, des valeurs essentielles pour ces citoyens du 21ème siècle. Et pour les élèves jordaniens, un tel échange est la preuve que la langue française peut permettre l'ouverture vers d'autres cultures.

Le Jourdain

## Découverte

### Le tourisme galopant de Pétra

A l'instar de Pétra qui accueille chaque année plus de touristes, le nombre de chevaux travaillant sur le plus important site touristique jordanien ne cesse d'augmenter. Pour s'occuper d'eux, une clinique vétérinaire, le Brooke Hospital, dispense depuis 1989 des soins gratuits.

**Un numéro** accroché à l'encolure, les chevaux regagnent à tour de rôle l'entrée du site de Pétra. Pour eux, la promenade est plutôt courte: ils effectuent des aller-retours au pas d'environ un kilomètre pour amener les touristes de l'entrée du site de Pétra jusqu'au site, défilé débouchant vers les trésors nabatéens. Ce sont bien souvent de jeunes enfants qui les tiennent en longe sur le parcours. Et leur grand plaisir est de les ramener au grand galop le soir venu chez eux, dans les collines de Pétra.

Depuis une trentaine d'années, le nombre de chevaux travaillant à Pétra ne cesse de grossir. Les autorités touristiques jordaniennes ont fixé à 352 en 1989 le nombre d'autorisations permettant de faire travailler un cheval sur le site. Mais derrière chaque numéro se trouvent plusieurs chevaux, chaque détenteur de numéro ne souhaitant pas perdre une journée de travail à cause de la blessure d'un cheval.

Car au fil des années, cette petite promenade équestre est devenue assez rémunératrice pour bon nombre de propriétaires de chevaux. Dans le prix d'entrée pour Pétra qu'ils acquittent, les groupes sont obligés de payer cet aller-retour, soit environ 50 francs par personne. Et avec environ 3000 visiteurs par jour en haute sai-

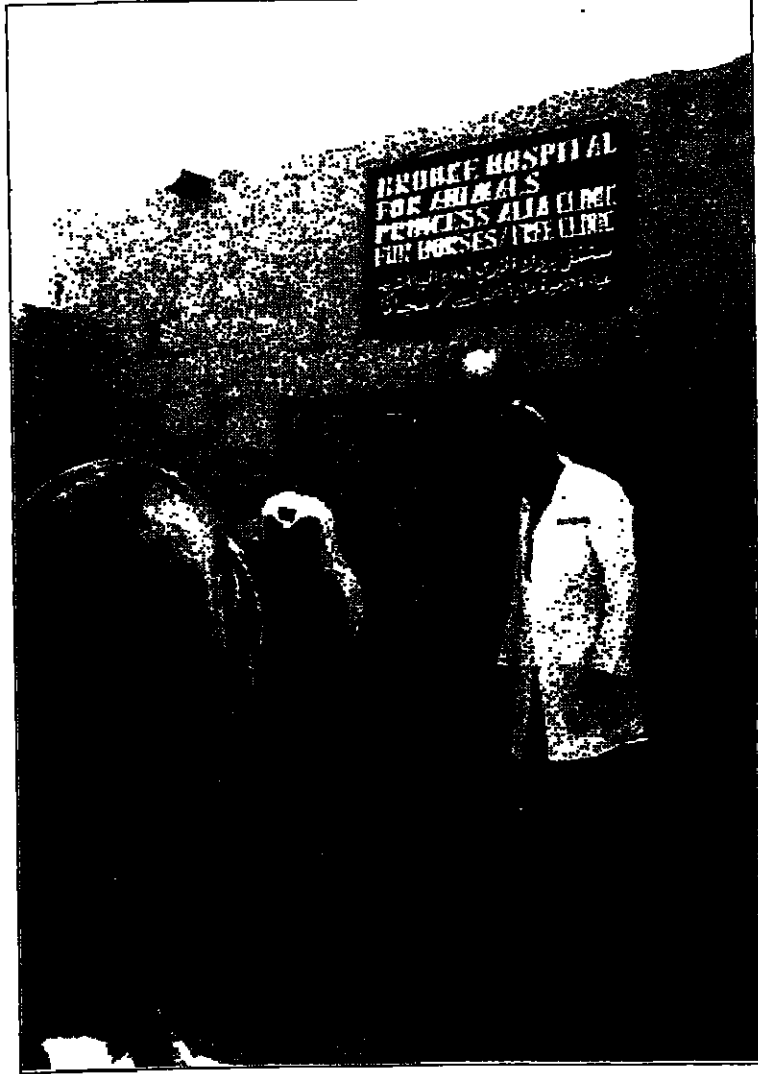
son, un propriétaire peut espérer que son cheval transporte quatre ou cinq touristes dans la même journée, un roulement complet des 352 numéros ayant à chaque fois lieu.

Sur chaque balade, il doit reverser environ 4 francs au Brooke Hospital. Situé à l'entrée du site, cette clinique vétérinaire a vu le jour en 1988, à l'initiative de la princesse Aïla et de l'organisation anglaise Brooke Hospital for animals qui possède des établissements similaires en Égypte, en Inde et au Pakistan.

« Depuis le début de l'utilisation des chevaux à Pétra dans les années 30 jusqu'à la fin des années 80, il n'existait aucun suivi des chevaux. Or, il était important de s'assurer que ceux-ci travaillaient dans de bonnes conditions », explique Mohammad H'latat, directeur du Brooke Hospital à Pétra. Pour ce faire, le Brooke Hospital offre une panoplie complète de services gratuits. Lorsqu'un propriétaire achète un nouveau cheval, il doit le faire examiner par les vétérinaires. Tous les quatre mois, son cheval sera réexaminé. Et s'il possède un numéro pour le faire travailler, il se verra remettre une selle et un bridle de bonne qualité pour éviter toute blessure. Le ferrage est lui aussi compris, un maréchal-ferrant se chargeant de poser

des fers métalliques pleins. En revanche, le propriétaire doit se plier aux règles de l'hôpital, et notamment respecter les périodes de repos imposées par les vétérinaires en cas de maladie, blessure ou grossesse. Et pour encourager les propriétaires à prendre soin de leurs chevaux, une compétition organisée chaque année sélectionne les plus belles montures, et leurs propriétaires se voient remettre du matériel d'équitation.

S'il est amené à soigner essentiellement des chevaux, le Brooke hospital s'occupe aussi de mules, ânes, chèvres et chameaux en fonction des besoins de la population locale. Une vingtaine de personnes travaillent dans cet établissement. « La création de l'hôpital et sa gratuité ont encouragé beaucoup de gens à acquérir des chevaux », explique Mohammad H'latat. « Et on assiste à une augmentation rapide de la population équine. Chaque année, entre 70 et 80 poulains naissent au Brooke Hospital ». Le résultat de cette démographie équine élevée est la présence de nombreux chevaux un peu partout dans les jardins de la ville de Wadi Moussa. Mais si le nombre de chevaux augmente, le nombre d'autorisations reste lui pour l'instant le même. Et la pression commence à se faire grande du côté des propriétaires qui ne possèdent pas encore de précieux numéros.



Plusieurs vétérinaires dispensent gratuitement des soins au Brooke Hospital.

### Vous voulez écrire en français?

Alors n'hésitez pas à collaborer à la rédaction du Jourdain. Que vous soyez passionné d'économie, de politique, de faits de société ou de culture, vos articles nous intéressent. Pour tout renseignement, contactez Olivier Bras au Star au 645 380 / 652 380.



Un des chevaux de Pétra attendant patiemment un client.

Olivier Bras

## C'est la vie

### Cinéma

Cycle consacré au réalisateur Jean-Jacques Annaud.

Le 19 mai à 20h30 au CCCL, Le nom de la rose (1986).



### Spectacle

Mime et Tysme. Spectacle de mime tout public, accessible à tous les âges, sans barrière de langue. Cinq représentations sont prévues dans le pays, dont le 22 mai à 20h au Centre culturel royal et le 23 à 20h au collège de La Salle.

## Diplomatic

Algerian	.....
Australian	.....
Austrian	.....
Bahraini	.....
Brazilian	.....
Belgian	.....
Bulgarian	.....
Canadian	.....
Chilean	.....
Cyprus Honorary	.....
Czech	.....
Danish Consulate	.....
Finnish Consulate	.....
French	.....
German	.....
Greek	.....
Hungarian	.....
Icelandic Consulate	.....
Indian	.....
Indonesian	.....
Iraqi	.....
Italian	.....
Japanese	.....
Kuwaiti	.....
Libyan	.....
Lebanese	.....
Moroccan	.....
Netherlands	.....
New Zealand Consulate	.....
North Korean	.....
Norwegian Embassy	.....
Omani	.....
Pakistani	.....
Palestine	.....
People's Rep. of China	.....
Philippines	.....
Polish	.....
Qatari	.....
Romanian	.....
Russian	.....
Saudi Arabian	.....
Slovenian Honorary	.....
Sri Lanka	.....
South Korean	.....
South Africa	.....
Spanish	.....
Sudanese	.....
Swedish	.....
Swiss	.....
Syrian	.....
Taiwan	.....
Turkish	.....
Turkmen	.....
U.A.E.	.....
United Kingdom	.....
United States	.....
Yemen	.....
EEC Delegation	.....
ESCWA	.....
ICRC	.....
UNDP/WFP	.....
UNRWA	.....
UNICEF	.....
UNESCO	.....

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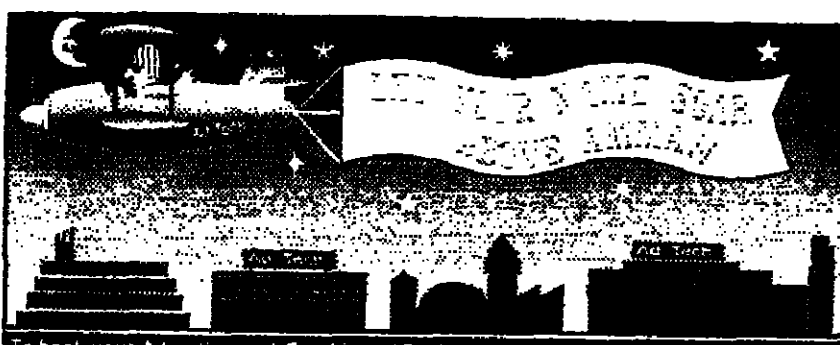
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Edited by Zeid Nasser

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## Global One signs x.25 contract with the Arab Bank

GLOBAL ONE Communications Ltd has recently signed a contract to provide the Arab Bank with an X.25 network.

The Arab Bank is the largest bank in Jordan, and one of the Arab World's largest financial institutions, with more than 350 branches worldwide.

The bank's decision to adopt an X.25 network was made to enable the exchange of data securely and reliably among its branches. This, of course, will result in more advanced customer services.

Global One offers a single source for the data needs of businesses, carriers and consumers around the world. Global One has more than 2900 employees and over 2,200 points of presence in more than

100 countries.

Commenting on the agreement, Mr. Imad Ayoub, general manager of Global One stated that "we are very pleased to be working with the Arab Bank on such an important part of their communications network."

Stating satisfaction on part of the Arab Bank was Mr. Eyal Shukri, senior regional manager of the Information Systems Division at the Arab Bank, who said, "We are pleased to choose Global One and we look forward to enhancing the efficiency and reliability of our global communications network."

GlobalOne

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The installation of such X.25 networks is part of Global One's comprehensive services in Jordan.

Global One Communications (Jordan) Ltd is part of Global One International, the global joint-venture between Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom and Sprint.

For more information, contact Global One/Sprint Jordan at telephone 700301.

## INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

### Upgrading your old PC: Motherboards & processors

ARE YOU, like millions of other users worldwide, still using a 486PC? Well, if you are, then you've probably been experiencing its limitations over the past couple of years, especially since Windows 95 came out and all these very-demanding, graphics-intensive applications emerged.

Faced by the prospects of being left behind, on the one hand, and being unable to operate many applications, on the other, you're probably considering one of two options: Either throwing away your current PC to purchase a brand new one, or upgrading to a blazing fast new Pentium.

The second choice is probably a better idea and saves you a lot of money, particularly as most of your computer components will do the job fine as part of an upgraded system.

After all, your monitor's resolution is still the standard your computer's keyboard and mouse will function perfectly and any add-ons like a soundblaster card, CD-ROM drive or internal modem can still be utilized.

Upgrading basically involves the procedure of removing your current motherboard, that is the main board found inside your computer case, and replacing it with a new one that includes newer components. That is the straightforward description of the procedure, but it does involve more.

For example, if you are lucky enough to have one of those 'advanced' 486 motherboards which enables you to remove the microprocessor, and plug-in a Pentium processor instead, then you will basically need to make a microprocessor upgrade, which should cost you around half of the normal cost associated with replacing both motherboard and processor.

Having a removable 486 processor also opens up the opportunity for OverDrive upgrades, which are processors that double or triple your current processors, clock speed, delivering Pentium performance, although not necessarily implanting a Pentium into your system. Why go for an OverDrive when you can get the real thing? Well, sometimes, 486 motherboards support OverDrive upgrades but cannot take Intel Pentium processors, mainly due to their design.

Anyway, after identifying your motherboard's type and finding out whether you need to 'dump' it completely or whether to simply replace your processor, you will probably begin to shop around for the required components.

On the Jordanian market, a motherboard with a 133MHz Pentium microprocessor, is priced between JD 220 to JD 300. The processor itself is about \$150 (JD 105), while motherboards are priced from JD 100 to JD 150. If 133MHz isn't enough for you, a Pentium 166MHz processor will cost around JD 100 more, bringing the total—including motherboard—to around JD 350 to JD 390.

Bargaining won't do you much good when it comes to the Intel microprocessor, but you can get a discount on the motherboard, or you can explore the offers provided by many motherboard suppliers. Almost every computer company in Jordan can offer you motherboards.

Upgrading is always a good idea when you've got a limited budget to spend on improving your computer set-up. It's also a nice option if you feel comfortable with your own computer and its parts. Although this may sound strange, but many users love their machines and would hate to part with them. Upgrading the guts of your favourite computer will give it a new, more powerful spirit, while retaining its 'attractive' character. Weigh your different options, and good luck in your quest for 'more...megahertz'.

## News update

### New printers from Epson

Epson, one of the world's leading printer and peripheral manufacturers, has announced a series of new printers in the inkjet category.

These are part of the Stylus series and include four new color models, called the Stylus Color 800, 1520, 400 and 600.

All printers function with Apple Macintosh and IBM PC operating systems. The latter two (Stylus Color 400 and 600) utilize the advanced printing features offered by Microsoft Windows' different versions.

### Explorer gains in on Navigator

From the looks of it, Microsoft Explorer is narrowing its market gap with Netscape Navigator.

According to a study published by BYTE Magazine, Explorer's share of the Internet browser market jumped from 12 percent in early 1996 to 35 percent in early 1997; therefore, gaining in on Netscape

Navigator which lies at around 57 percent or 58 percent market share.

The Internet browsers war is at its height with millions of new users coming on-line every quarter. For now, it seems that Netscape needs to come up with a counter-attack plan.

Some analysts predict that Netscape's new package, titled 'Netscape Communicator' will lock out arising competition from Microsoft Explorer. At the end of the day, Internet users will decide.

### IBM slashes ThinkPad prices in the Middle East

In the first quarter of this year, IBM slashed the prices of two of its most popular ThinkPad notebooks. The price reductions are as high as 22 percent. Also, IBM announced upgraded features and advancements in its ThinkPad 365 and 560 models. For more information on IBM PCs in Jordan, contact Special Systems Co. (SSC) at telephone 682131 or General Computers & Electronics (GCE) at 5513879.

## The Internet's role in technology transfer: Too wide of a gap to bridge? Not!

By Jawad Abbassi  
Special to The Star

CONSIDER THE change of times: In the 18th century it took the French a long time to hear of the American War of Independence's ideals that would inspire their own revolution later on.

These ideals had to be brought back by French soldiers who fought alongside the Americans and had to take a long journey back home. Should this affair have happened today, the French wouldn't have needed to travel to and back from the US, rather they would have only needed to check out a web page of the American revolution or use the file transfer protocol (FTP) to download some documents across the Internet!

Telecommunications is making human interaction and exchange of ideas easy and efficient, and the Internet—the result of the marriage of information and telecommunication technology—made the exchange of ideas and information cost effective and hence economically viable.

A programmer in Jordan can easily connect to a programmer's news group or web page and exchange ideas and exper-

tise with American, Indian and European programmers without the need to actually travel to these areas and incur the high costs of traveling. This



new reality is behind many conclusions that the Internet will be instrumental in bridging the information and technological gap between the rich industrial North and the poor developing South.

Reuters reported that Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, which dominates computer operating systems and software, has said, during a recent visit to South Africa, that "the Internet is the single most important tool that will open Africa up to the rest of

the world. It is the future of communication worldwide and Africa is not as far behind as some people believe."

The strategic decision by Microsoft to establish a base in South Africa underlines the widespread belief that the African continent, and the developing world at large, are poised to witness greater use of information technology which is imperative for economic development in the 21st century. Microsoft is therefore positioning itself in a convenient place to capitalize on the continent's anticipated surge in IT use.

Reuters' report further added that South Africa, by far the continent's most technologically savvy country, had 34 computers for every 1000 people as opposed to the 300 computers per 1000 rate in the United States. However, Bill Gates expressed his conviction that a remarkable growth in Africa's use of IT is inevitable which justifies establishing a strong presence of his company and other IT firms.

Coinciding with Bill Gates' African "prophecies," was the news published by Pyramid Research that Prodigy—the world's third Internet Service Provider (ISP)—is embarking on an ambitious plan to connect Africa to the Internet.

Prodigy is backing Africa-On-Line for a major expansion in Africa that would target African countries ranging from Egypt to South Africa. The targeted number of "Africa-On-Line" accounts in these two countries only is 165,000 and 203,505 respectively.

Africa-On-Line, its name being a clear indication of the World's number one ISP America-On-Line, is also targeting several other African countries in its expansion stages. Such a development in a major part of the developing world, would only enhance the Internet situation in the continent and spur further increase in the use of IT in economic, educational and recreational arenas.

Concurrent with Africa-On-Line's endeavors are other efforts in African countries, such as Tunisia, which issued licenses for ISPs to induce the use of the Internet in the country.

While the gap separating the French from the Americans 200 years ago was the great "unbridgeable" Atlantic, it seems that the Third World's gap with the North is easily bridged by a phone call, a modem and an Internet account.

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## Barcelona favored to win fourth Cup Winners title

ROTTERDAM —Barcelona will be without their hard-tackling defender Miguel Angel Nadal when they attempt to win the European Cup Winners' Cup for an unprecedented fourth time against holders Paris St. Germain Wednesday.

Nadal was sent off during the second leg of Barcelona's semifinal victory over Fiorentina which earned him a two-match ban.

But Bobby Robson is expected to recall French defender Laurent Blanc to the side after Blanc missed Saturday's 1-0 Spanish league win over Real Madrid through injury.

Brazilian Giovanni, injured against Real, is expected to be fit but will probably be on the bench rather than in the starting line-up.

Barcelona's preparations for the match were hit on Tuesday when their flight to Rotterdam was delayed for four hours because of a bomb scare.

Initially the players were in good spirits but, as the delay lengthened, Robson and the rest of the squad became decidedly irritable and finally got to their beds well past midnight.

The match could well be an open, attacking one, with a fascinating battle in prospect between

Ronaldinho, Barcelona's Brazilian who has scored 32 goals this season, and the Brazilians in the French side, Leonardo and Rai.

PSG showed in the second leg of their semifinal against Liverpool that they can withstand an attacking bombardment because although they lost that match 2-0 they still went through 3-2 on aggregate after destroying Liverpool with a con-

trolled attacking display in the first leg.

PSG have no suspensions to worry about and are expected to field their strongest side as they bid to become the first team in the competition's 36-year history to retain the trophy.

"Barcelona have been better organized in recent weeks but I can't see any big difference between us and them. We may not be favourites but everybody talks more about their players individually than about Barcelona as a team," PSG's Brazilian coach Ricardo said.

"I'm not building a team to counter Ronaldinho, Giovanni, Figo or De la Pena. In a final you must express yourself on counter-attacks alone."

Ricardo, however, has a special plan to counter Ronaldinho, a player he knows from training camps with Brazil in 1994, by assigning Bruno N'Gotty to shadow him.

"I always play my best matches against the best players. Personally, I wish to become one of the best defenders there is and it's a fine opportunity to prove what I can do," N'Gotty said.



Ronaldinho

Probable teams:

Barcelona - Vitor Baia, Sergi Barjuan, Laurent Blanc, Abelardo Fernandez, Albert Ferrer, Josep Guardiola, Luis Enrique, Ivan de la Pena, Hristo Stoichkov, Luis Figo, Ronaldinho.

Paris St. Germain - Bernard Lama; Laurent Fournier, Bruno N'Gotty, Paul Le Guen, Jimmy Almerigier, Jerome Leroy, Benoit Calet, Vincent Guerin, Leonardo, Rai, Patrice Loko.

## Baresi calls for AC Milan to show its pride

MILAN—Veteran skipper Franco Baresi said Monday that only pride could earn AC Milan a place in the UEFA Cup next season.

Milan are currently ninth in the Serie A after Sunday's 3-1 victory over Reggina, and only the top six will play in Europe.

Baresi, 37, and in his 20th season with the Italian champions, said: "The UEFA Cup zone is four points away, which means that in the last four matches of the season, we'll have to win 10 points."

"We're aware of the difficulty, but we've got to show our pride."

Czech Arrigo Sacchi has criticized the team for its relatively slow game, and they are heading for trouble on Thursday against Parma, whose last, aggressive play has

taken them to second in the table.

Baresi said: "Football today is played at a very high pace, and Sacchi is right to say that the rhythm of our game is fairly low."

But having said that, we mustn't forget that we are still AC Milan.

"Every one of us has to give everything they have — and that's something that for various reasons hasn't happened this season."

Baresi is widely expected to hang up his boots in June, before moving into a executive career in the Milan suburbs with Monza. AC Milan recently brought the third division side into the management of its youth teams.

But Baresi would not be drawn on the subject, saying: "Me at Monza? I've read about it in the newspapers."

## Rallying in Jordan grows by the year

ITS RALLY time. Today, Thursday is the start of the Jordan International Rally that will last till tomorrow, Friday.

The first rally held in Jordan was something of a social occasion for the invited participants. It had a secret route and ended in a picnic among the trees and greenery of the hills near Mahis. The date was 1964 and the winner was none other than His Majesty King Hussein.

This was the humble start of what has grown and developed into the highly competitive sport that it is today. Nobody dreamed that Jordan would be considered for inclusion in the world championship series of rallies less than two decades later.

The rallies that were held in the 1960's did not rely on speed to determine the winner but were decided on the skills of navigation and split-second timing. Details of the route were only given to competitors at the start and there were numerous secret hidden checkpoints to judge the accuracy of the competing cars in keeping with the schedules.

Some of the leading crews became so adept at this type of competition that often the results were determined on the difference of only one or two seconds after a full day's driving.

In the 1960's all rallies had been held over asphalt roads as the cars that took part were completely standard and in the majority of cases represented the normal daily transport of the competitors. There were no special rally cars in those days.

The only preparation that was considered necessary was the removal of the wheel hub caps and perhaps the fitting of a couple of spotlights which was more for cosmetic effect than for practicality. The only other equipment needed was a stop-watch and also a pair of string-backed gloves.

Several of Jordan's leading businessmen were drivers in the pioneer days of rallying. Second generation involvement can be seen in several instances, the most notewor-



thy being that of His Majesty King Hussein who was a regular participant in the early days and his sons HRH Prince Abdallah and HRH Prince Faisal, who is now the Chairman of the Motor Sport in Jordan.

Rallies in Jordan have reached every corner of the Kingdom and have utilized more of the roads and tracks that are considered suitable. Jordan also boasted the geographical features rally in the world. In 1985 and 1990 the international event visited the Dead Sea, almost 400 metres below sea level.

Rallies in Jordan took a giant step forward in 1983 when the main event was granted International status by the Federation Internationale du Sport Automobile (FISA), the world body governing motor sport. This resulted in foreign competitors taking part for the first time.

In 1984 the annual Jordan Rally was included in the newly established Middle East Rally Championship which grouped our event with the international rallies held in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Dubai and Oman. The

creation of the championship called for manifold changes and improvements in order to meet the stringent demands for quality and safety made by FIA, all of which have been met and in some cases exceeded.

The very sophisticated and complicated requirements of organizing an International Rally involve the support and cooperation of many government departments, official organizations as well as the deployment of hundreds of volunteers during the event.

Several government ministries such as Customs, Interior, Public Works, Information, Health and Tourism are involved and the police and civil defence forces play a very active role in security and safety aspects.

The armed forces too are an essential element as they assist in providing communications via radio networks and in the provision of helicopters. Several government hospitals and doctors are on standby during every rally in case of need. However, the nature of the construction of modern rally cars and the uncompromising safety

requirements make physical injuries to drivers extremely rare, even in the event of serious accidents.

The support of "Royal Jordanian", has been close and of long standing. The organizers rely on "Royal Jordanian" to transport foreign crews, journalists and guests to Jordan, a service which is very appreciated.

The Jordan Rally is knocking on the door of the World Rally Championship. They have been assured that they are one of the main candidates for inclusion at the first opportunity that presents itself.

This is a significant accolade for the Kingdom and for the organizing committee as it shows that the Rally has achieved a status and standard that makes it worthy of that honour.

Judging by the rapid progress in the past few years and the unconditional support of the government and major institutions, such as Royal Jordanian, it seems most probable that Jordan will be placed firmly on the map of World Class Rallying countries in the not too distant future.

A staple of the menu of the 1987-93 uprising against Israeli military occupation and a recurring theme of the century began, the king had largely been dormant since the first Israeli-Palestinian accord of 1993.

Continued on page

## Queen

By Dean E. Murphy  
COPENHAGEN, Denmark—The Danish Queen Margrethe set sail last week for a kingdom. But Danes do not expect to hear much about the queen, you see, is rare news here.

As head of one of the world's oldest reigning arches—dating back 52 reigns to Viking ruler in the 10th century—Queen Margrethe carries impeccable royal credentials. She lives in a Rococo palace in the heart of the capital, Copenhagen, spends her holidays at a chateau in France and serves as the lar head of the Danish state.

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